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UNMIS
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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

UN Security Council team to verify that suspects implicated in crimes in Darfur are brought to justice.

AlRai AlAam The GoS informed a team of experts from the UN SC about practical difficulties facing implementation of the UN SC resolutions on ban of travel of some Sudanese citizens and confiscation of their properties. Those Sudanese citizens are accused of committing crimes in Darfur. The minister of justice informed the press that he explained to the UN team efforts made by the government to achieve reconciliation in Darfur. He strongly refuted allegations on ethnic cleansing operations.

Sudan: UN envoy unveils plan to resolve conflict in Darfur

Suna website 12 Jan 07 **Al-Fashir**: The special envoy of the UN's secretary-general to the Sudan, Jan Eliasson, revealed that the UN's strategy to end the conflict in Darfur in the coming period is based on coordination of efforts and stances with the African Union.

In this connection, the UN special envoy affirmed that he is to embark on joint efforts with the senior African Union mediator on the issue of Darfur, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim. This came when the UN official met in Al-Fashir, Northern Darfur State, with the Government of North Darfur State, headed by the deputy governor Idriss Abdallah, and the members of the state's security committee.

The UN's top official said he contacted the leaders of the movements that have not signed Abuja Peace Agreement out side Sudan in the few previous days, affirming continuity of his efforts in collaboration with the neighbouring countries.

Mr Eliasson stressed the necessity of reducing violations to the cease-fire agreement in order to pave the way for political dialogue. He acknowledged the difficulty to bring together the signatories and non-signatories of the agreement in one forum.

As for his visit to Darfur, he explained that it aims at identifying the roots and real causes of the conflict in order to consider them in any political solution toward the stability of the region. He further described his meetings and discussions with the officials in the federal government in Khartoum as good and encouraging and would push for the solution of the issue of Darfur. He also said the tripartite agreement of the Sudanese Government, the African Union and the UN, with regard to the UN's support, is a suitable agreement to address the issue of Darfur.

UN envoy pledge for close coordination with the African Union

Saturday 13 January 2007.

Jan 12, 2007 (AL-FASHER) — UN special envoy to Darfur said he would work hands to hands with the African Union to put an end to the conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced at least 2.5 million others since 2003.

UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, said that the UN's strategy to end the conflict in Darfur in the coming period is based on coordination of efforts and stances with the African Union, the state-media SUNA reported.

The UN Special Envoy affirmed that he is to embark on joint efforts with the African Union Chief in Darfur talks, Salim Ahmed Salim. The UN official made this statement when he met on Friday in Al-Fasher with the Government of North Darfur State.

Eliasson visited the war-torn region today for talks as part of UN efforts to find a lasting solution to Darfur crisis. He pointed out that his visit to Darfur aims at identifying the roots and real causes of the conflict in order to consider them in any political solution toward the stability of the region.

The UN's top official said he contacted the leaders of the movements that have not signed Abuja Peace Agreement out side Sudan in the few previous days, affirming continuity of his efforts in collaboration with the neighboring countries.

Eliasson stressed the necessity of reducing breaches to the ceasefire agreement in order to pave the way for political dialogue. He acknowledged the difficulty to bring together the signatories and non-signatories of the agreement in one forum.

Eliasson said yesterday that his talks with Mr. el-Bashir were fruitful and positive, and they discussed the deployment of a planned hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The force is the final phase in a three-phase plan to augment and replace the existing and under-staffed AU monitoring mission, known as AMIS. The hybrid force is expected to comprise about 17,000 troops and 3,000 police officers.

A former General Assembly president and Swedish foreign minister, Mr. Eliasson was appointed last month to re-energize diplomatic efforts for a non-military solution based on the DPA, signed last May by the Government and only some of the many rebel groups it has been fighting in Darfur.

(ST)

UN envoy calls on Sudan to halt violence in Darfur

Saturday 13 January 2007.

Jan 12, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Darfur told the press on Thursday that during his talks with the Sudanese officials he pleaded for the halt of violence in Darfur.

"The best way to prove that there is a real will to find a political solution is to see a reduction of violence" he said.

Jan Eliasson said during a press conference held in Khartoum yesterday that he talked with the Sudanese leadership about the violence in Darfur "There are bombardments, there is support to different groups, there is an ongoing flow of arms."

The envoy stressed that his mandate is only to deal with UN efforts for peace in Darfur, he said "that I am the equivalent of Salim Ahmed Salim in the UN".

He also said that Sudanese president told him that there was no military solution for Darfur crisis. "I was told that it has to be a political process and that it has to tackle the root causes of this problem."

Jan Eliasson was appointed as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Darfur crisis on 19 December 2006. He has a long and rich career in diplomacy and he was the President of General Assembly at its 60th session and he was also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country, Sweden.

(ST)

Sudanese ambassador, UN chief discuss situation in Darfur

Suna website 12 Jan 07 **New York:** The secretary-general of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, reiterates the international body's commitment to coordinate with the Sudanese government and the African Union with respect to the issue of Darfur and the realization of peace and stability of the whole region.

This came when he received Sudan's permanent envoy to the UN, ambassador Abd-al Mahmud Abd-al Halim, Thursday [11 January]. The UN's secretary-general was briefed by the ambassador on the steps being taken by the Sudanese government in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur, saying that Sudan is ready to study any preparations pertinent to the implementation of the cease-fire agreement in order to create an atmosphere convenient for the talks.

The ambassador added that Ban Ki-moon is satisfied with the current visit of his Special envoy to the Sudan, Mr Jan Eliasson, as well as his meetings with the Sudanese officials.

UN determined to achieve peace, stability in Sudan's Darfur region

Sudanese radio on 12 January the UN secretary-general's envoy to Sudan, Jan Eliasson, today stressed in Al-Fashir town, Northern Darfur State, the determination of the UN to realize peace and security in Darfur.

He also said the UN will coordinate with the AU for a political process to bring about negotiations between all the stake holders in the crisis, in order to arrive at a fair solution, which is satisfactory to all the parties in accordance with the Abuja Peace Agreement [APA] and make the other groups, which have not signed the APA join the peace process.

Eliasson confirmed that he has made contacts with leaders of the groups opposed to the APA and lauded the active role being played by Sudan in the Horn of Africa.

Sudan: UN envoy to visit Darfur 12 January

Suna website 12 Jan 07, the special envoy of the UN's secretary-general to the Sudan, Jan Eliasson, praised the level of cooperation he found during his meetings with the Sudanese officials.

The UN's official said Sudan's close cooperation with the African Union within the framework of Abuja [Peace] Agreement as well as the letters exchanged between President Al-Bashir and the UN's secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, will further contribute in putting the peace talks in the right track in order to solve the issue of Darfur.

Speaking at a press conference he held Thursday [11 January] following his meeting with the president of the republic, the UN's envoy explained that priority must be given to the realization of peace rather than the deployment of peacekeepers.

He summed up his mission as limited to the political and diplomatic aspects beside how to bring about peace in Darfur, saying that it can be achieved by virtue of

cooperation of all the Sudanese forces: the signatories and the non-signatories of Abuja Peace Agreement.

The UN's official stressed the need of lessening hostilities so that the humanitarian worker can have access to extend food to the needy persons, a matter which will strengthen mutual trust and pave the way for the political dialogue and peace. He affirmed that "military solution is no option for solving the issue of Darfur" and that political option is the only and comprehensive option to solve the issue of Darfur.

He further spoke about his talks and discussions with the Sudanese officials, including President of the Republic Omar al-Bashir, were very constructive and fruitful. It is to be noted that the special envoy of the UN's secretary-general to the Sudan, Jan Eliasson, met the president of the republic, Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir, the Senior Assistant of the President Mini Minawi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Lam Akol, as well as the Advisers of the President Dr Nafie Ali Nafie and Dr Majzoub al-Khalifa and other officials in the Government of National Unity and the National Congress.

Darfur

Tripartite mechanism responsible for following up implementation of UN support packages, to meet today.

Atwan The tripartite mechanism (UN, AU, GoNU) entrusted to follow up the implementation of the UN support to the AU will hold today an a meeting at AMIS HQ in Khartoum. According to AMIS spokesman, UNMIS had been received by the AU in AL Fashir last Thursday.

Darfur needs long-term peacekeeping force - EU

(ST) Jan 13, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) Peacekeepers will be needed in Sudan's Darfur region years after any political settlement as even the government has created forces it cannot control, a senior European Union official said on Saturday.

EU special representative for Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, appealed for a ceasefire and said the rebels needed to reach a unified position before any political process could restart.

"I have a feeling there is a need for a long-term peacekeeping force even if there is a political settlement with the government," he told reporters in Khartoum.

"Even the government has created forces that it cannot control and this just indicates just how deep the problems are we have in Darfur."

Haavisto said the events in Darfur's main town, el-Fasher, in December, where clashes between militias in the marketplace forced dozens of aid workers to be evacuated, were proof that the government had lost control of some forces.

He added that he had met representatives from the Darfur rebel groups and they had signalled their agreement to restart talks and that the rebel commanders would hold a conference to unite their position. *(Reuters)*

NRF says Wali of South Darfur (al Haj Atta al Mannan) responsible for tribal conflicts in the region

Atwan The NRF field spokesman, Tyrab, said that the Front was not keen to negotiate with a government that does not listen to their demands and responds only to the military might. He laid the blame of the past tribal incidents that took place during the previous days on the Southern Darfur Wali. Tyrab renewed his forces' rejection of ceasefire, saying any decision must be agreed to by the field commanders.

SLA Minawi rejects integration in Sudanese Armed Forces before disarming Janjaweed.

AlRai AlAam SLM-Minnawi forces have rejected a plan proposed by the Sudanese government for early integration of its troops.

The Commander in Chief of the SLA-Minawi, Juma Hagar, rejected a plan initially agreed by his group to integrate his forces into the Sudanese army immediately before the implementation of other clauses stipulated in the Darfur Peace Agreement.

In a press release, Hagar urged the Sudanese government to fulfill the four conditions set forth before proceeding with the integration. Hagar said that Khartoum has to provide non-military logistical support, disarm the Janjaweed militias, and supply the tools needed for the implementation of the DPA related to reintegrating combatants into civil society, and to create a favourable environment for return of the displaced persons and refugees to their areas. *(ST)*

Sudanese president's envoy, Libyan leader discuss Darfur

Suna website 13 January Tripoli, Sudanese president's chief assistant and head of the Darfur Interim Authority Meni Arkoi Minawi, today met the Libyan leader al-Gadaffi.

During the meeting, the Sudanese official thanked Al-Gadaffi for the efforts being exerted by Libya to realize peace in Darfur and also in reducing tension between Sudan and Chad.

Minawi asked Al-Gadaffi to exert more efforts to convince the rebel groups in Darfur opposed to the Abuja Peace Agreement to join the peace process and make sure that the accord is implemented.

It is worth mentioning that Minawi had arrived in the Libyan capital, Tripoli on Thursday.

Arab camel men tribes in S. Darfur refuse meeting SLM –Minnawi delegation.

Allintibaha The Abbala (camel men) tribe refused to receive the SLM delegation headed by Minnawi on its visit to Nyala to mediate so as to end the problems and the ongoing fighting between the Abbala and Tarjam tribes in Southern Darfur. The Abbala are of the opinion that the SLM hands are still stained with the blood of 53 of their folks who were killed on their way back from Libya and still have 3000 camels looted from the tribe.

Sudan urges for reconciliation after tribal clashes in Darfur

(ST) Jan 13, 2007 (KHARTOUM) Sudanese authorities said they were pursuing efforts Saturday to reconcile tribes of ethnic African farmers and nomad Arabs in South Darfur after several dozen people were killed in a week of clashes.

The government is accused of having unleashed in response the janjaweed paramilitary group of Arab nomads, blamed for the worst atrocities in the conflict.

Several other tribal militias also plague this vast, arid region of western Sudan, where scarce resources regularly pit nomadic tribes against sedentary ones.

The latest fighting in southern Darfur involved the Habania nomads and Falata ethnic African farmers, Justice Minister Mohammed Ali Al Mardhi told the independent Al-Rai AlAam daily newspaper. He said over 200 people were killed over the past week, mainly among nomads, and that the government had sent reconciliation missions to end the fighting.

Sudan's Interior Minister Zubeir Bashir Taha appealed to tribal leaders to stop the killing and "resort to the voice of wisdom," said the state-run SUNA news agency.

Sudan raps US initiative on Darfur

Suna website 13 Jan 07,: The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali al-Sadiq, has expressed his astonishment over the trend of the USA and its envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to call on Sudan trade and economic partners and friends to help [find a] solution for the Darfur crisis, referring to a visit of the US envoy to China and his declaration that he called on Beijing to help in finding a solution for the Darfur crisis.

In a press statement to Suna, Ambassador Al-Sadiq said that Andrew Natsios is the US envoy to Sudan and the door is open for him, and visited Sudan twice, adding that ample chance is available for Natsios to develop views and to cooperate with Sudan government concerning Darfur problem.

He said that this step came at a time when Sudan government was able to reach agreement with the African Union and the United Nations on implementation of the three stages of aid packages in Darfur, besides finalization of arrangements on the issue of the African forces' command and their task, as well as utilization of experts and advisors from outside the African Union's framework.

Ambassador Al-Sadiq said that the US administration and Natsios should have conduct contacts with the bodies that arrangements were adopted with them for solution of Darfur crisis if they were serious to Sudan, on grounds that any activity outside the framework of the bodies of African Union and the United Nations will be ineffective.

He affirmed Sudan respect to China and the relations between the two nations, stressing that China is a major partner and ally of Sudan. He affirmed Sudan confidence that China will work together with Sudan through the diplomatic dialogue between the two countries.

Sudanese troops killed in ambush in southern Darfur

(Almshaheer) website, 13 Jan 07 In an official statement issued in Khartoum yesterday, the Sudanese army said four soldiers had been killed and three others sustained injuries in an ambush laid by unidentified gunmen in southern Darfur [western Sudan].

In a press statement to Ray al-Shaab newspaper, head of the 16th infantry unit Gen Hassan Malik said the attackers had opened fire on the soldiers, who were heading towards a locality near Nyala [capital of Southern Darfur State] where recent intertribal clashes took place. He did not add further details. [Passage omitted].

Creation of a new rebel group in Darfur

Saturday 13 January 2007.

Jan 12, 2007 (LONDON) —A new Darfur rebel group has been announced last week by a breakaway faction of SLM – Minni Minawi group which signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on 5 May 2006.

The leader of the new Great Sudan Liberation Movement (GSLM), Mahgoub Hussein, is the former spokesperson of Minni Minawi. Hussein resigned at the end of December for failure of the DPA, he also said that the SLM-MM failed to achieve peace and stability in the troubled region of Darfur.

Hussein added that the SLM had lost its legitimacy to express the will and the aspirations of Darfur people.

The GSLM said it would not limit its military action to Darfur, threatening to extend it to Khartoum.

The following the text of the first statement of the Great Sudan Liberation Movement.

The first statement of the Great Sudan Liberation Movement (GSLM)

Together to save Darfur from another setback

To our long suffering people of Darfur.
To our displaced fellow brothers and sisters in the refugees camps and Diaspora.
To our people in Blue Nile state, Sinnar State, Ghadarif State, Al Jazeera Aba, and all the social fabrics of Darfur wherever they are.
To all Sudanese people in general.
To our fellow compatriots from the Sudanese margins.
To the voice of the revolution: students, women, and youth.
To the patriotic military officers, soldiers, police and civil defence forces in Sudan.
To all victims of the Ingaz regime.
To our partners in New Sudan.
To our fellow warriors in Darfur.

Preamble

As a continuation of our struggle for freedom, justice, and equality which has been marked by the inauguration of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) in 2003, and as part of our historical duties and national commitments towards a complete liberation of the Sudan from all forms of marginalization and discrimination on behalf of the vast majority of the Sudanese people in general and the people of Darfur, who have been denied any chances for a decent life in Particular; we, as a political and military institution , would like to maintain that ,in the light of the unfortunate developments followed the signature of the 5th May peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the SLM in Abuja, the whole SLM political programme for liberation and emancipation is now crumbling away to dust, and it's likely to lead to a vicious reproduction of the crisis by means of the old destructive policies of centralization. This centralization is represented by the political, economic and cultural marginalization of the majority of the Sudanese people who are denied participation of the exercise of power, access to wealth and moreover subjected to cultural hegemony. The so-called Sudanese national building Programme has been an exclusivist project that merely based on false cultural and social super stratum. It has never recognized the historical and the contemporary diversity of the Sudan. It works to institutionalize the hegemony of small minority of the centre through its system of rule and governance and economic manipulation of the excluded regions. Since its inception, the SLM called for restructuring of power, equitable distribution of wealth, religious tolerance and the creation of new socio-political, economic and cultural system.

In so far as it concerns, the SLM leadership has conducted a series of consultations and carried out an intensive discussion aiming a comprehensive policy revision through critical evaluation and through assessment of its performances and achievements in the last periods in order to make whatever necessary changes and modifications that may be needed as we push the wheel of struggle further. And accordingly, the SLM puts the following remarks forwards:

First: The whole Programme for liberation and emancipation by which the SLM aims to contribute in the process of transforming Sudan into free, democratic and peaceful country is now in jeopardy as the Sudanese government led by the National Congress Party seems to have succeeded in its efforts to sabotage the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and manipulate it to ensure its grip on power and deny the people of Darfur their minimum rights.

Second: The performance of the SLM has been crippled by the absence of institutionalism and transparency, which highlights the fragility of its leadership, its political incapacity, its lacks of experience and its vulnerability to become an easy exploit for the ruling party and its security apparatuses.

Third: The credibility and reputation of the movement has been stained by deeds of some of its members who appear to have been lured by the dominant National Congress Party to get involved in its murky world of corruption and take part in its destructive policy of divide and rule at the cost of the huge sacrifices our people made.

Forth: It becomes obvious that the leadership lacks political will and sufficient strategic vision to achieve the objective of the movements.

Fifth: It is also obvious that the Darfur Peace Agreement has been manipulated by the NCP to disintegrate the SLM and spoil its political programme and diminish its military power and public support. This creates a situation of disunity and leads to emergence of small circle-loyalties within the movement motivated by ethnic and personal interests rather than common good.

Sixth: The NCP continues to pursue, harass and persecute the SLM leaders inside and outside the country.

Seventh: Regardless of all what has been mentioned, the nightmare continues for our people in Darfur as they face a systematic brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing, rape and expulsion from ancestral homeland. These horrors are occurring on daily basis. Our preliminary statistics reveal that more than half million people have been killed so far in Darfur, and nearly three million have become displaced and more than 10 thousands women have been raped. Eighth: It is obvious from the developments on the ground and the series of events took place inside the major cities and towns across Darfur, that the DPA is very unlikely to yield peace and stability in the region and consequently brings those who did not sign it on board. According to this; we, in the leadership of the SLM; representing both its political and military wing; and in addition to its grassroots membership, would like to make it clear that it is our moral obligation and responsibility to step down collectively from our current positions in the structural hierarchy of the movement and continue to retain our full membership. Follows this, we have the honour to declare the formation (birth) of :

(The Great Sudan Liberation Movement) as a national political movement with a military wing; stresses on the core principles of liberation based on justice, equality, democracy and human rights in civil society that will address the key demands of the people of Darfur –who have been politically and socially alienated since the creation of the so

called “independent Sudan” – and fulfil at the same time the aspirations and the ambitions of the vast majority of the Sudanese people regardless of their cultural, religious , social and ethnic backgrounds.

With regards to this; the GSLM puts emphases on the followings:

1- In these critical moments of our history; the people of Darfur need to remain united more than ever before to avoid another historical setback, which might become inevitable unless they stick together to their noble cause and form a united front in their struggle for freedom and justice. 2- Although the wisdom behind the signature of the DPA in Abuja was to stop the bloodshed and achieve reconciliation as a clear sign of good will, but the ruling party continues to manipulate it cover up its all out- war policies directed at the entire population of Darfur.

3- Great Sudan Liberation Movement affirms that the strategic goal of the ruling party in Khartoum and its allies is to distort the demographic components of the region through policies of ethnic cleansing, persecution, and expulsion to the neighbouring countries in order to create new realities on the ground.

4- Great Sudan Liberation Movement stresses that the campaign against the Khartoum government from Darfur will not be the only option to force the regime to comply with the just demands of our people, but these efforts should be extended to Khartoum by using all legitimate and possible means; and by adapting new tactics to topple the regime if it continues to ignore the sacrifices the people of Darfur have made to get their rights.

The Great Sudan Liberation Movement would also like to maintain that the conspiratorial policies of the regime in Khartoum aim in the first place to punish the people of Darfur collectively and deny them the minimum chances for survival and hence we must confirm the followings:

1. What is going on in Darfur is a systematic policy of aggression and animosity adopted by the government of Khartoum and its allies towards the people of Darfur.
2. So far, the African Union mission in Darfur has failed to achieve any thing in Darfur, neither in terms of security and stability on the ground, nor in terms of a political settlement at the negotiation table in Abuja, on the contrary many local Darfurians have seen it as a tool for the oppressive regime of Khartoum.
3. Since there is a growing consensus a round the world that the Darfur crisis is an international issue, it should be settled through international means.
4. The international community represented by the United Nation Security council, has failed to protect the people of Darfur from atrocities committed by the Sudanese regime, it fails collectively and demonstrably to honour its commitments and exercise its responsibilities to protect the defendless civilians population of the region.
5. Sadly enough, some institutions such as the Arab League and the some Islamic organizations have shown strong political bias in favour of the Sudanese regime and continue to back its position after they have been misled by its hollow propaganda about the scale of the atrocities committed in Darfur.
6. Most of the neighboring countries failed to play any effective role to resolve the crisis.

And accordingly we declare:

- 1- The political and military campaign against the regime in Khartoum will continu

CPA

NCP Secretariats conclude assessment of partnership with SPLM.

Allintibaha NCP 4 Secretariats will submit today their final report on NCP- SPLM partnership, CPA implementation, and requirements of next stage and strengthening of partnership. Political relations secretary has affirmed in a press statement that the

political relations and the three secretariats of the south started examining the relations between the NCP and the SPLM.

GoSS

LRA will not return to Juba for talks with Ugandan Government.

AlRai AlAam Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army says they will not participate in peace talks with the Government that are to resume next week in southern Sudan. The LRA said it is committed to peace talks only if it will be hosted in another country.

Church leaders in South Sudan confirm failure of unity with the North.

AlIntibaha Church leaders in South Sudan have confirmed failure of unity with the North. "The north was supposed to make unity attractive through the CPA, but this has not happened. I can confirm that we will become autonomous." The Rev. Santiono Maurino, deputy general secretary of the Sudan Catholic Bishop's Regional Conference said.

UN driver killed in southern Sudan

(Almshaheer) website 13 Jan 07 The United Nation's World Food Programme [WFP] in a statement issued on Friday [12 January] in the Italian capital Rome, announced the death of one of its employees during a roadside ambush in southern Sudan.

Emmanuel Chaku Joseph, a Sudanese national who worked as a driver for WFP was killed and a soldier injured, when unknown gunmen opened fire on a pick-up truck on the road between Juba, the capital of southern Sudan, and the town of Torit.

The executive director of WFP, James Maurice, condemned this unjustified criminal attack which killed the driver, who was working to help his country which is just emerging from war. In 2005 two drivers with WPF were killed in Darfur, western Sudan following attacks on WFP truck convoys.

GoNU

Al-Bashir wants Ugandan rebel out of Sudan

Khartoum Monitor The President Bashir, during the second anniversary of national celebration of CPA, in southern Sudan capital Juba, he said: "We are prepared to constitute a joint force to eliminate the LRA". Al Bashir added that, "We do not want them we must pursue a military solution."

"We do not want war in south Sudan again" el Bashir said adding that If it means using military confrontation, I am ready to use military confrontation to chase the LRA out of Sudan."

Sudan 'astonished' by US prodding China over Darfur

(ST) Jan 13, 2007 (**KHARTOUM**) Sudan expressed "astonishment" at US efforts to push China, a key ally of Sudan, to exert more influence on Khartoum to resolve the conflict in Darfur.

During a visit to Beijing on Friday, the US special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, said he expected China to play a greater role in helping to end the conflict in the western province that has cost thousands of lives.

Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadek "expressed his astonishment over the trend of the United States and its envoy ... to call on Sudan's trade and economic partners and friends to help (find) a solution to the Darfur crisis," Sudan's official SUNA news agency reported.

"Sudan's door is open to Natsios, who has already visited the country twice, and he has an opportunity to develop ideas and cooperate with the Sudanese government with regards to the Darfur problem," it quoted Sadek as saying.

Sadek recalled that the Sudanese government has already worked out arrangements that will see the United Nations provide support to the ongoing African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur over three phases. (AFP)

Iran invites Sudan to boost military cooperation

(ST) Jan 13, 2007 (**TEHRAN**) Iran has invited Sudan to boost military cooperation between the two countries, saying that such cooperation among Islamic countries could lead to the progress and development of Islamic countries.

During a meeting held Saturday in Tehran with the visiting Sudanese Defence minister, the Iranian Defence minister expressed the readiness to share its military experience and abilities with the Sudan. The minister urged to promote military cooperation between the two countries as a mean to consolidate the Islamic World.

"Tehran is prepared to share its defence experiences and capabilities with all Muslim states," Iranian Defence Minister Mustafa Mohammad-Najjar told his Sudanese counterpart Abdel Rahim Mohamed Hussein here on Saturday, the Iranian Mehr News Agency reported.

The minister highlighted the need to promote defence relations between Tehran and Khartoum. He announced that Iran is prepared to participate in reconstruction projects in south and west Sudan. *(MNA/ST)*

Sudan to chair AU end of this month.

Al-Sahafa Sudan would be the head of the African Union during the next African summit in Addis Ababa this month, confirms Ahmad El Tayeb, Sudan's deputy Ambassador. Following declaration made by the present head of the AU, Alfa

Konare, of his disinterest to compete once again for the post, it is believed that the Nigerian President is the strongest candidate for the post.

UN determined to achieve peace, stability in Sudan's Darfur region

Sudanese radio on 12 January Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail, has said that the government in conjunction with Qatar will present a joint memo to the US government seeking the release of Sudanese journalist Sami al-Haj detained at the Guantanamo Bay prison.

A-Haj has been on a hunger strike for past two days in protest over the inhumane treatment he is receiving at the detention camp. In an interview with Sudan radio, Thana Muhi al-Din al-Haj, a sister to the detained journalist said that contacts are going on between his personal lawyer, Reporters Without Borders and his family in Sinnar.

She added that officials of the Reporters Without Borders have stressed their continuous support to resolve the issue by exerting pressure on the relevant authorities to secure his release or be given a fair trial.

Sudan: First vice-president, Norwegian envoy discuss peace pact

Sudanese radio on 13 January First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the head of the assessment and evaluation commission to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement, Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, held a meeting in Juba yesterday.

The meeting focused on the progress of the peace agreement, the obstacles that it faces in its implementation and possible ways to resolve them.

At the same time, the two sides discussed the progress of the implementation of three protocols of the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement]. They also examined the suggestion made by the Kenyan government on the occasion of the celebration of the second anniversary of the peace pact to appoint a negotiator from IGAD in order to monitor the implementation of the agreement.

Turkish Speaker to visit Sudan

Turkish news agency Anatolia Ankara, 12 January: Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc will travel to Sudan on Monday [15 January] as the official guest of Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, Speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly.

During his three-day stay, Arinc will meet senior Sudanese officials, including President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir and Foreign Minister Lam Akol, besides Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir.

Arinc will also sign a memorandum of understanding. The Turkish parliament Speaker will also attend the opening ceremony of a new building of the Turkish School in Sudan on 17 January.

Arinc is expected to return to Turkey later in the same day.

New Sudanese currency launched

Suna website The circulation process of the new Sudanese currency (the Sudanese Pound) started Wednesday [10 January] at the Central Bank of Sudan (CBS) and its branches in the states of Sudan.

The CBS completed preparations and arrangements on provision of the required quantities of the currency to enable the commercial banks to withdraw their needs.

Speaking to Suna, the Director of Currency Issuance Department at the Central Bank of Sudan, Awad Abu Shawk, said the first phase of the currency circulation started on Wednesday by introducing currency denominations of one pound, ten pounds, twenty pounds and fifty pounds. [Passage omitted]

Sudan: Guantanamo Bay detainee goes on hunger strike

Sudanese Media Centre website, 13 Jan 07 Excerpt from report by Sudanese Media Centre website on 13 January

Sudanese journalist detained at the Guantanamo Bay prison Sami al-Haj has gone on hunger strike protesting over his five years detention without trial according to his personal lawyer Cliff Smith.

The committee for the protection of journalists had said in its last report that the US Army is still detaining Al-Haj hoping that he will become a spy. [Passage omitted]

Sudan: Speaker receives invitation to attend Islamic conference in Indonesia

Sudan TV, Omdurman, 13 Jan 07 The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, has received an invitation to take part in an international conference of Muslim parliamentarians in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

During his meeting with the Indonesian ambassador to Khartoum, Mr Tahir Sidad, the Speaker said reconvening the conference in Jakarta came in recognition of the significant role of Indonesia in the Muslim world.

Meanwhile, the Speaker got acquainted with the objectives and projects of the Al-Quds International Foundation during his meeting with its Secretary-General Dr Ahmad al-Adluni.

For his part, the Speaker affirmed the support of the Sudanese parliament to the foundation so that it can contribute to the efforts of the Arab nation in defending the Palestinian cause.

Other Developments

Demonstrations in Damazin, 1 student killed, 15 others injured, two schools burned.

AlRai AlAam One student was killed and 15 were injured in student demonstrations against month-long teachers strike in Ed Damazin town, Blue Nile capital. Teachers did not get their salaries of December.

According to eyewitnesses, the police contained the 4-hour long incident. Demonstrators burnt two schools and stoned ministry of education premises and number of government buildings.

US asks China to exert pressure on Sudan

(ST) Jan 12, 2007 (**BEIJING**) A U.S. presidential envoy for Sudan said on Friday that he had asked China to exert its leverage on the African nation to ensure Khartoum abides by U.N. resolutions on the strife-torn Darfur region.

Andrew Natsios, wrapping up what he said was a "very successful" five-day trip to China, said he was still concerned Sudan was not doing enough to end the violence in Darfur, which Washington and Beijing were worried was spreading regionally.

China supplies arms to Sudan, and its oil companies also have large investments in the country. In November, Sudan was energy-hungry China's fourth-largest source of crude imports.

Natsios said he had made a "whole series of requests" to the Chinese asking them to help, though he would not give details.

When asked if he had requested the Chinese use their leverage over Sudan, he said:

"I did, yes. There is a concern in Beijing and in Washington that this war in Darfur is spreading now into Chad and the Central African Republic, so it is causing regional instability."

The envoy said that he remained concerned about an upsurge in violence even with the signing of an African Union-mediated peace deal in May.

He declined to give details of what that "plan B" might be, though the United States and others are considering options ranging from travel bans on Sudanese officials and an assets freeze to imposing a no-fly zone in Darfur. (Reuters)