



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **Pronk to hold talks with the *Wali* of Kassala**

(*AlAyaam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) SRSG Jan Pronk holds talks later today with the *Wali* (governor) of Kassala State during his two-day his two day visit to that state.

UNMIS Deputy Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy said that the SRSG held talks yesterday with leaders of the Beja tribe and the local government in Hamishkoreib and will hold talks with the *Wali* later today.

### **Government of National Unity**

#### **Sudanese First Vice-President to visit Washington on 18 July**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 4<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir will visit Washington to discuss peace implementation and US aid to the southern Sudan besides related questions as the economic sanctions.

The state minister in the Presidency, Telar Deng, said “Salva Kiir visit to the U.S. will start on 18 July”. He further indicated that Sudanese First Vice President would meet President George W. Bush on Thursday 20 July.

During his last November visit to Washington, Kiir met with Vice President Dick Cheney, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Deputy Secretary Robert Zoellick and members of the US Congress. This will be the first time to meet President Bush.

Salva Kiir will travel to the U.S. with a request that eight-year-old economic sanctions be lifted and removing its name from Washington’s list of countries sponsoring terrorism. The question of the economic sanctions was already raised during his visit in November 2005 to Washington.

He will also discuss the American aid for the Southern Sudan reconstruction.

Last year visit coincided with the renewal of the economic sanction against the Sudan. Then, Kiir was criticised for not doing enough to persuade the US administration for lifting the sanctions.

Kiir’s visit to Washington will be the second since he took over the SPLM in August following the death of First Vice President John Garang in a helicopter crash.

#### **Southern Sudanese caucus in the National Assembly back calls for vote of no confidence on Speaker**

(*AlAyaam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **The National Assembly**) The southern Sudanese caucus at the National Assembly says it backs recent calls for a vote of no confidence against Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir.

Caucus chairman Peter AbdelRahman Sule says many members of the SPLM and the National Congress Party have expressed the proposed motion that may be tabled for deliberation when parliament comes out of recess come October.

The issue was initiated by Mr. Ali Mahmoud Hassanein who heads the NDA caucus but has since then received some considerable support.

On the other hand, Deputy Speaker Atim Garang said that the advocates for a vote of no confidence do not have proper grounds to support the proposed motion as the Speaker has not violated any law of the House.

### **Minister of Defence says VP Taha is in Turkey on the request of President Bashir**

(*AlSahafa* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Defence Minister AbdelRaheem Mohamed Hussein has dispelled speculation of a rift between President Bashir and Vice-President Taha over the issue of the deployment to Darfur of UUN troops.

He described as “hostile” those groups in the country that have spread much speculation on the Vice-President’s ongoing trip to Turkey on vacation with his family.

“The President of the Republic”, says he “was the one who requested Mr. Taha to take a break far away from the work climate.

The defence minister said that the Vice-President was exhausted with the daily work and that this is his first vacation since 1989 and that he surely deserves to have a rest with his family.

The minister further warned that those who are waiting for the government to disintegrate would have to wait a long time.

He called upon the press to carry out its job in a responsible manner.

### **Southern Sudan/LRA/SPLM**

#### **Uganda will negotiate with indicted LRA leaders - Sudanese Machar**

(*Sudan Tribune, AlRai AlAam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Cairo**) Uganda’s government has dropped its refusal to negotiate with leaders of the Lord’s Resistance Army who were indicted by the International Criminal Court, raising the hope of success in upcoming peace talks, the chief mediator said Tuesday.

Southern Sudan’s Vice-President Riek Machar said Uganda’s delegation also had assured him they would allow the process to run beyond July 31 — a deadline set by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni — “as long as there is progress in the peace talks.”

Machar said his talks with a Ugandan government delegation — which flew to Juba, the southern Sudanese capital, on Monday nearly four weeks after the LRA delegation arrived — had gone extremely well.

The delegation was led by Ugandan Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

"They even said they would negotiate with a delegation, which is headed by any of the five who are wanted by the ICC," Machar said in a call from his office in Juba. "So the chances for peace are higher."

Meanwhile, the Ugandan president promised to grant amnesty to Kony provided he rejects terrorism and talks progress well, the presidential spokesman said Tuesday.

"President Yoweri Museveni has declared that the Uganda government will grant total amnesty to the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony, despite the International Criminal Court indictment, if he responds positively to the talks with government in Juba, Southern Sudan and abandons terrorism," according to the statement.

Asked why the Ugandans had changed their mind about dealing with the five LRA leaders, Machar said: "I think because they genuinely want peace."

In the Ugandan capital, Kampala on Tuesday, Uganda's third deputy prime minister said his government hadn't made plans to negotiate with the indicted leaders.

"We don't expect the indictees to be in the delegation at the talks," Kirunda Kivejinja told The Associated Press. "If our delegation reports back to us that this is the case, we will have to answer that question (of whether to deal with them)."

"There were no preconditions for these talks," he said, adding that "peace is never struck very easily."

Kivejinja, who is also Uganda's information minister, said the deadline of July 31 could be extended if the talks are fruitful.

Machar said the LRA and Ugandan delegations had left Juba to report back to their leaders about the negotiations, which he expects to begin on Wednesday next week.

Should the LRA delegation return to Juba with indictees in its ranks, the Southern Sudanese government would find itself in an awkward position. While it has assured the LRA of safe passage, it also has obligations to the U.N., which has 10,000 troops and numerous aid agencies in southern Sudan working to implement a 2005 peace agreement that ended the 21-year civil war there. The International Criminal Court, a U.N. body, has pressed Sudan to detain the LRA Five for trial.

"Our priority is ending the war, bringing a peaceful settlement and then, after that, any legal process can take place," Machar said.

Any U.N. attempt to detain one of the LRA Five, "would be obstructing a major process, which would enhance the legal process," he said.

"So I hope the U.N. wouldn't take such steps," he said.

Machar came under criticism in May when he met LRA leader Kony in the bush and gave him \$20,000 and food on condition that he and his fighters leave Sudan without plundering any more villages. A video tape of the encounter - made by Sudanese officials and broadcast on international media - showed Machar handing bundles of cash to Kony and telling him not to spend it on ammunition.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said Machar should "arrest people accused of horrific war crimes, not give them food and money."

But last month Machar said the payment had been a success as more than 90% of LRA fighters had left Sudan, enabling its people to enjoy greater security. The U.N. said there had been a considerable fall in LRA violence.

### **Unidentified armed group kills 5 near Juba**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Juba**) An unidentified armed group has opened fire on citizens who were on their way from Lefon to Juba yesterday.

5 people were killed in the ambush and 8 other injured in the ambush reported to have taken place at Bilinyang village some 12 miles from Juba.

A foreign engineer working in a road construction company is reported missing following the ambush.

### **Humanitarian and international agencies evacuate Aweil town due to rainy season**

(*AlSudani* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Aweil, Khartoum**) A number of international humanitarian agencies have evacuated their staff from east and west of Aweil to Aweil town as a precaution for the rainy season.

An MP for Aweil said the withdrawal of these agencies may negatively affect the health situation in the areas they have evacuated and fears an outbreak of disease in those areas.

The MP further pointed out that the local administration has started resettling the returnees in the areas and government support is lacking.

### **Salva Kiir appoints South Sudan relief commission officials**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 4<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Juba**) The Sudanese First Vice President, President of southern Sudan government Lt Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit has appointed three leading officials of the important southern Sudan relief and rehabilitation body.

On 27 June, Salva Kiir issued a decree appointing Simon Kun Puoch as Chairperson, Reverend William Chan Achuil as Deputy Chairperson and Elijah Alier Ayom as Executive Director of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC).

The decree indicates that the functions of the SSRRC include repatriation, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons and facilitation of reconstruction of the conflict affected areas in Southern Sudan.

SSRRC leadership shall collaborate with the ministry of Legal affairs and Constitutional Development and the ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources Development in the finalization of its Draft Act and determination of conditions and terms service and regulations that shall govern by the work of the Commission.

Puoch who is a close friend of Southern Sudan Vice President Riek Machar, rejoined the SPLM in 2003 after the declaration of unity of Sudan People's Democratic Front (SPDF) with the SPLM.

He participated in the merger between Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA) and Relief Association for Southern Sudan (RASS) to form SRRC. The two were formerly relief wings of SPLM/A and SPDF respectively.

The name of Puoch appears also a director of GOSS Nile Petroleum Corporation Limited.

## **DPA/ Darfur**

### **Sudan files protest with UN, AU over rebel attack**

(*AP/ST, AlAyaam, AlRai AlAam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese government officially protested to the U.N. Security council, the African Union and the Arab League over a rebel attack on a town in the western region of Kordofan that killed at least a dozen people, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Rebel groups opposed to a peace agreement signed to end violence in the neighboring Darfur region of Sudan undertook a raid on the town Hamarat Sheikh on Monday, killing civilians and police officials, the Sudanese army said.

"The attack on the town was carried out by a Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement. Most of the civilians in the town have fled the area to save their lives," army spokesman Brig. Osman Mohamed al-Aghbash said.

A spokesman for the JEM claimed his group had acted in self-defence.

"The aggression was on our people, we just want to defend ourselves because within recent days there was an attack carried out by the Sudanese army ... our people were thrown out of their homes in Darfur," JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein told the Al-Jazeera satellite TV channel by telephone from London.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry also said Tuesday that JEM and several dissident groups from the Sudan Liberation Movement - that endorsed the May 5 Darfur Peace Agreement with Khartoum - had "conceded to having committed this heinous crime against their homeland."

The ministry said authorities had launched security measures and appealed to the international community "in a bid to protect the lives of civilians and to safeguard the Peace Agreement itself against such plots."

While stemming from Darfur, JEM is viewed as a movement with national ambitions and alleged ties to radical Muslim politicians in Khartoum. It has also joined a separate rebellion to the East of Sudan, and has bases in Eritrea.

The Sudanese foreign ministry implicitly warned its neighbors - Eritrea to the southeast and Chad to the west - against supporting Darfur rebels.

Sudan "should not be expected to remain an easy target for saboteurs, traitors and conspirators who hired themselves to loss-making foreign agendas," the statement said.

SLM leader Minni Minnawi, who signed the Darfur peace deal, has also alleged that splinter SLM factions opposed to the agreement have recently received support from Chad.

Authorities said they were chasing the rebel troops into the desert Tuesday, but other reports indicated that sporadic fighting continued to erupt around Hamarat Sheikh, a town that lies roughly halfway between El Fasher, the capital of the remote Darfur region, and Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

An eyewitness who talked on conditions of anonymity for fear of reprisals told The Associated Press on Monday that he saw a group of rebels attacking the town in more than 50 cars.

"They began by occupying government building and making much noise ... then we heard shootings," the witness said. "Then, they confiscated all trucks and cars belonging to private citizens and to the government," he said.

The region's governor, Faisal Hassan Ibrahim, told local media on Monday that 10 police officers and several civilians were killed in the raid.

The governor, who had fled the town, confirmed eyewitness reports that rebels destroyed almost every government building in the zone.

Located some 400 kilometers (248.56 miles) west of Khartoum, Hamarat Sheikh is a desert town inhabited mostly by Arab tribal groups that mainly trade camels and food with neighbouring Libya and Egypt. The spokesman for the North Kordofan region said that a state of general mobilization had been declared there.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Sudanese govt, eastern rebels agree on ceasefire modalities**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 4<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Tessenei, Eritrea**) Sudanese army and eastern Sudan rebel group signed a military protocol to implement to ceasefire agreement signed last month.

A Sudanese military delegation and the rebel Eastern Front “signed in Tessenei a document on action program regarding the signing of security and military agreements on June 27”, the official website of the Eritrean ministry of Information reported.

Sudan's government and eastern rebels signed a pact to cease hostilities and agreed a framework for future talks on Monday 19 June to end a long-simmering insurgency in the remote but economically important region.

The new agreement on cessation of hostilities obliges the two sides to desist from any movement from the places they had occupied prior to June 19, designate army officers who would implement the agreement drawn from both of them and representatives of the Eritrean government in five stations that separates the two parties. This is to say the area around the Red Sea, Setit River, Barka River, Kerayit and Lafa towards facilitating the implementation of the peace process and stability of Sudan.

On the Eritrean side, the Head of Organizational Affairs at Eritrea's ruling party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), Abdalla Jabir, and the Commander of Operation Zone 1, Brig. General Tekle Kiflai, and on the Sudanese government side, General Hassan Mohamed Al-Amin and. Mussa Osman Issa from the East Sudan Front signed the agreement.

Meanwhile, the East Sudan Front is holding a three-day congress starting July 2 in Tessenei town on the implementation of the Agreement on Declaration of Principles and cessation of hostilities.

The Eastern Front controls an area on the Sudanese-Eritrean border around the town of Hamesh Koreb and has been involved in low-intensity guerrilla activity against the Khartoum government for years.

The Khartoum government says the latest push to defuse the crisis in the east is part of an attempt to pacify the whole of Sudan by building on peace agreements reached recently with other rebels.