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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

President Bashir says African Union forces should either remain and do their duty in Darfur or leave

(*AlSahafa* – 13th Jul. **Khartoum**) Addressing a mass rally in Nyala yesterday, President Bashir reiterated his rejection to a United Nations force deployment to Darfur “under whatever guise”.

Referring to the African Union, the president said, “If you want to continue the job then you are welcome but if not then you should leave”.

He underlined the dangers of the deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur and pointed out that this will be a form of re-colonization under the guise of a peace-keeping operation.

The President of the Republic also acknowledged the right of the people of Darfur to compensation for what they lost during the war and called on the holdout groups to join the peace process.

Tagali tribes of the Kordofan region call for a United Nations office in their area

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 13th Jul. **Kordofan**) Representatives of the Tagali tribe of Kordofan have pleaded with the United Nations to open an office in Tagali area in order to monitor implementation of the peace agreement and communiqué issued by a recent conference of the Tagali tribes held in Abassiya.

The Tagali highlighted the United Nations contribution to the consolidation of peace and coexistence in the area and to open up links between the area and the international community.

It is worth noting that the conference above mentioned debated on issues of native administration, local government, natural resources, economic development, coexistence, farming and grazing and land and boundaries.

CPA

AEC says Abyei and Petroleum commission issues polluting the CPA

(*AlAyaam* – 13th Jul. **Khartoum**) At a press conference held yesterday in Khartoum, the head of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission said the CPA is being violated mainly on the two issues of Abyei and the Petroleum Commission.

Tom Vraaslen pointed out that the CPA had set timetables for implementation but these are not being met.

He called upon the parties to the CPA to establish a partnership based on the spirit of cooperation and lamented that a number of committees are yet to be operationalised and underlined the need to implement the final communiqué of the parties in order to build trust

between them. He also called for a convening of meetings of the political committee and the other coordinative structures.

He further pointed out that the situation seems unclear in terms of the police and the security.

The head of the AEC further pointed out that there are five years remain to the end of the Interim Period but many commissions such as those on human rights; civil service and lands are yet to be formed while others that have been formed are not operationalised.

He said this must change because the outstanding issues in the CPA may poison the political climate and hamper the partnership.

He also called for enough funds to enable these commissions carry out their work.

Southern Sudan

SSDF demand 50% of police force in the south

(*AlAyaam* - 13th Jul. **Khartoum**) The SSDF says it will be holding a meeting with Vice-President Salva Kiir in the next few days to discuss outstanding issues.

The SSDF says this is a follow up to the last meeting between the SSDF and the SPLA in Wau.

SSDF second-in-command Mjr. Gen. el-Toum Daldoum said that the SSDF sticks to its demands for 50% of the police force in southern Sudan.

He said this is necessary because it will help enhance credibility with elections looming on the horizon.

Daldoum expressed confidence that some sort of breakthrough may be reached in this forthcoming meeting.

Uganda rebel leaders say not attending peace talks

(*Reuters/ST* – 12th Jul. **Nabanga**) Talks to end one of Africa's most brutal conflicts were thrown into doubt on Wednesday after the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) said its leaders would not attend negotiations with Ugandan officials.

Kampala wants LRA leader Joseph Kony or his deputy Vincent Otti to attend the talks, which had been due to start on Wednesday in Juba, the capital of neighbouring south Sudan.

"I cannot go to Juba myself. Let this delegation go. We have blessed them to negotiate with the Ugandan government with a full mandate. ... I will go to Juba sooner or later," Otti told reporters.

He was speaking in Nabanga where he had met south Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar, who has led efforts to mediate an end to the 19-year uprising in northern Uganda by the LRA.

Otti added that Kony would sign a peace agreement himself if talks went well.

Analysts say Otti and Kony fear arrest if they attend the talks in person. Kony and four of his top aides are wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

An eight-man Ugandan team led by Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda was due in Juba on Tuesday, but was waiting for an invitation from Machar.

A Ugandan government spokesman declined to comment on the LRA's refusal to send senior delegates, and said it was still waiting for a briefing from Machar's latest meeting.

South Sudan's regional government says it wants to broker an end to the LRA's insurgency, which has killed tens of thousands, uprooted nearly 2 million people in northern Uganda alone and destabilised southern Sudan.

Kony's fighters have been accused of attacking villages in southern Sudan and Uganda's military has brought its long war against the LRA into Sudan by pursuing rebels across the border.

If a deal is thrashed out, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has offered amnesty to Kony, despite a legal obligation to catch the wanted men. Museveni has also extended a deadline for an agreement from July 31 to Sept. 12.

Ugandan govt seeks LRA rebel arrest waiver - BBC

(BBC website – 12th Jul. London)— Ugandan's security minister has gone to the International Criminal Court to seek support for a decision to offer amnesty to rebel leader Joseph Kony, the BBC reports on its Web site Wednesday.

The Lord's Resistance Army chief and four of his commanders are wanted by the ICC on charges of war crimes, the BBC reports on its Web site.

Under international law, Uganda would be obliged to arrest them if they were at peace talks now due later this week. The talks are considered the north's best chance for peace in years, but the ICC insists the warrants still hold. The negotiations due to start in the southern Sudanese town of Juba on Wednesday have been delayed because of differences over the composition of the LRA delegation.

Ugandan government spokesman Robert Kyboshing said they wanted the top leadership, which would include some of those indicted by the ICC, at the talks. He told the BBC Uganda was prepared to ignore the will of the ICC if the government, together with the Sudanese authorities, could reach a peace deal.

"The issue that you need to remember is that the enforcers of the international law have themselves not been very keen on enforcing it, and that is why the government decided that the option of the soft landing be pursued," he said.

The amnesty was necessary, he said, if the talks with the LRA are to take place. South Sudan's Vice-President Riek Machar, the talks main negotiator, is due back from the LRA's hideout in the Democratic Republic of Congo after trying to persuade the LRA to send more senior leaders to Juba.

President Yoweri Museveni has promised he will give Kony amnesty if he renounces violence. He argues that since the U.N. failed to arrest the leaders of the LRA while they were on Congolese territory, the arrest warrants had no validity.

In a recent BBC interview, Kony denied the LRA had carried out atrocities, particularly against children. Thousands have died in the two-decade conflict between rebels and the government, and some 2 million have been forced to flee their homes.

Last week the ICC's prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said that arresting the LRA leadership was the best way to stop the conflict. "The LRA is an involuntary army and the majority of the fighters are formerly abducted children," he said in a statement. "Arresting the top leaders is the best way to ensure that these crimes are stopped and not exported to other countries."

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

NRF claims capture of Malam el-Housh in northern Kutum

(*AlAyaam* - 13th Jul. **el-Fasher**) The National Redemption Front says it has captured the town of Malam el-Housh some 90 kilometres north of Kutum and has seized 14 4x4 vehicles mounted with heavy weapons.

The military spokesperson for the NRF, AbdelNabi AbdelKarim, said that the attack on Malam el-Housh is in retaliation to the intensive attack they had been subjected to from the Minnawi faction of the SLM near Mir Mieza, east of the Jebel Marra.

On the other hand, SLM-Minnawi says the NRF report is untrue and that the areas under its control from Karf el-Toum to Haskaneita are calm.

SLM spokesperson Mahjoub Hussein said that the NRF has fabricated the report of the capture of Malam el-Housh.