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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN Meets with potential contributors to hybrid peace force in Darfur

(UN News Service; AlRai AlAam; Reuters; AlSudani) The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) met today with potential contributors of troops and police to the planned African Union-UN hybrid operation for the violence-wracked Darfur region in Sudan.

DPKO regarded today's meeting as "a constructive start," spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters, adding that it plans to hold informal discussions with the potential contributors and then another meeting after the Security Council officially authorizes the hybrid operation and establishes a mandate.

Ms. Montas said Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno opened today's meeting with an appeal to participants for early contributions. He said offers from African countries will be given priority but other offers will also be accepted, especially if there are not enough suitable African commitments.

Meanwhile, Hedi Annabi recently briefed UN members of progress in the implementation of the UN support package to the African Union. UK, US and France expressed criticism and accused the UN of delaying implementation of the support package.

Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN has revealed that the hybrid operations in Darfur is projected to cost, according to UN experts, \$2 trillion and 600 million.

Furthermore, European Union funding for an African peacekeeping force in Darfur has run out, and the United States and Arab League should help cover the costs until a replacement force arrives, the EU's aid chief said on Friday.

"I would like to call on the United States and the Arab League to contribute to financing this transition," he said.

Diplomats say a resolution to send the new international force could come to a vote at the U.N. Security Council next week, but that peacekeepers could take six months to deploy.

On its part, Arab League Secretary-General Amru Musa said on Saturday that the Arab League is committed to supporting African Union (AU) peacekeepers in Darfur.

The Arab League continues to provide the AU with available funds in order to boost the African mission in Darfur, he added, the official MENA reported.

AMIS has meanwhile expressed hope that the EU continue to fund AMIS operations. Spokesperson Noureldine Mezni says AMIS will be greatly affected should the EU announce it has no more funds for their operations.

On the political track, envoys Eliasson and Salim are expected here in Khartoum [tentatively] from the 11th to the 22nd of this month to follow up on the political track.

Experts foresee that success of the hybrid force for Darfur depends on the realisation of peace in that region, reports *AlSudani*. They expect funding and accommodation to pose real problems for the peacekeeping operation in Darfur. Some point out that indications are that the Security Council may fund the hybrid operation for a period not exceeding one year.

South Kordofan governor criticises UN agencies

(*AlKhabar*) The governor of South Kordofan State has criticised UN agencies and NGOs in the region of focusing on providing emergency relief assistance instead of switching to development assistance.

The minister told *SUNA* that the state appreciates and highly values the assistance these agencies have provided in the state especially in the area of capacity building but believes it should start to focus more on development assistance.

North Darfur government stresses the importance of support for IDP returns

(*AlWihda*) The Government of North Darfur State has called on UN agencies operating in the state to support IDP returns.

The Minister for Social Affairs at the Government of North Darfur State told UN agencies at a meeting in el-Fasher yesterday that the government is fully prepared to cooperate with all organisations operating in the state to enable them carry out their programs.

He said that the provision of services to those IDPs who have returned remains among the most important obligations for all.

UN sets up fund for South Sudan LRA war victims

(*New Vision*) Residents of areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency will benefit from a revolving fund of \$1.5m offered by the UN, the *New Vision* reported.

John Holmes, a UN undersecretary, approved the fund which will support activities in Ibba, Ezo, Maridi and Yambio counties in South Sudan.

David Gressly, another UN official, announced that the fund would cover food aid, health, provision of water, sanitation and shelter.

“The target population are vulnerable populations directly affected by the LRA including displaced persons and returnees not assisted by other agencies.”

Ann Encontre, a UN refugees’ official, said the repatriations were slowed down by heavy rains.

She noted that the exercise was also plagued by security concerns in Magwi and Torit areas but was non-committal as to whether it was the LRA responsible for the insecurity.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESA)

Sudan’s Bashir condemns US over sanctions

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Saturday condemned the United States for pursuing sanctions against his country over Darfur, the BBC quoted Sudan TV as reporting.

"We are amazed why USA is continuing with sanctions after a time when we agreed with the U.N. on the heavy support package," he said.

"Will these sanctions return the displaced and refugees to their villages? Will these sanctions help in providing services to the people?" Bashir asked during a live media conference.

He said the aim of the sanctions was to weaken the economy.

President Omer al-Bashir, reiterated his commitment to peace agreements signed since 2005. He underlined that there will be no return to war and that there is no substitute to the development process government has embarked on.

Speaking during the celebrations yesterday of the 18th anniversary of the 1989 military coup of the “National Salvation Revolution” at Khartoum Stadium, Al-Bashir said he was committed to self-reliance and reconstruction of what had been destroyed by war - appealing to donors to fulfill their obligations.

He said he was committed to care for women and youth and redress the grievances of the oppressed people, urging all Sudanese to work for the country’s progress and growth.

He called on all the political parties to prepare and participate in the elections, adding there is no way to attain power but through free and fair elections.

Bashir confirmed that elections will take place at the set time — third year of the interim six-year period in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He stressed government’s commitment to respect the subsequent elections results, no matter what the outcome may be.

Regarding Darfur crisis, he said it will soon be resolved after that the Sudanese government, African Union, and the United Nations have agreed on the deployment of the hybrid forces to Darfur. [*Read the MMR tomorrow for more details of the President’s speech*].

GoNU

Security Council joins nation in mourning Khalifa

(*AlHayat; AlRai AlAam*) The President of the Security Council visited the Sudan Permanent Mission in New York with a message of condolence on behalf of the Security Council over the death of Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa.

The Belgian Ambassador said that the late had contributed greatly in the quest for peace in Sudan and said described his death as a major loss to Sudan and the international community.

Darfur rebel groups say their fight is with Sudan government not individuals

(*el-Sharq el-Awsat via BBC Monitoring*) Groups opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement have reacted to the death of Sudanese Presidential Adviser Majdhub al-Khalifah, who was in charge of the Darfur negotiations, saying their fight was with the Sudanese government and not with individuals.

These groups called on the Khartoum government to "deal squarely with the problem, recognize the legitimate rights of people from the province, and refrain from elusiveness and from attempts to buy and sell allegiance". They said that what counts was how the issue would be dealt with, not the person who will take it over.

Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur, leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement opposed to the Abuja Agreement, extended his condolences to Al-Khalifah's family, even though he described Al-Khalifah as "one of the causes for the tragedy". He added: "There are people who repeat the saying that when somebody dies only their good deeds should be remembered, but there is no good deed to remember". He went on: "After Al-Khalifah's death, if the government opts to continue on the same road, it will end up in hell".

But Ahmad Husayn, spokesman for the Justice and Equality Movement opposed to the Abuja Agreement, avoided personal angles about Al-Khalifah in offering condolences to his family. "This is a humanitarian situation and it has its inviolability," he said. "We should be talking about the future not about the past, the negative aspects or Al-Khalifah's efforts in dealing with the Darfur issue." He said that Al-Khalifah acted on behalf of the government, not on his own behalf, and that choosing a successor was the prerogative of the Sudanese government.

Al-Haj Atta-el-Mannan tipped to replace Dr. Khalifa

(*AlWattan, 30 Jun '07*) Sources strongly tip South Darfur Governor al-Haj Atta-el-Mannan or Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail to take over the Darfur file that was being handled by Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa who died in a traffic accident late last week.

Khartoum and Tripoli in conflict because of Chad

(*Alwan*) Relations between Khartoum and Tripoli are passing through a difficult time following Khartoum's expulsion of the top Libyan diplomat here.

Observers say it all started when Sudan and Chad signed a reconciliation deal in Saudi Arabia – a deal described by the Libyan leader as ridiculous since his country was hosting meetings of the Chadian opposition groups to bridge their differences with their government.

Relations were further strained when Libya's Secretary for African Affairs, AbdelSalaam el-Tireiki announced recently that Libya will soon be hosting a conference on Darfur.

Minnawi says has nothing to do with GoNU consent to hybrid force

(*AlIntibaha*) Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi says his movement will not be held responsible for any developments that may occur as a result of government consent to the hybrid operations in Darfur. He said that his party was not party to the discussions that led to consent on a hybrid operation and has not even seen a copy of the agreement.

The SLM/A leader said in an interview with the paper that he does not rule out that the hybrid operation will switch from a Chapter VI operation to a Chapter VII and its mandate expanded to cover pursuit of those required for trial before the ICC for war crimes in Darfur.

Minnawi slammed the interior minister over recent statements on the mass graves in Gereida and called for an independent commission of inquiry on the issue. Residents of South Darfur had earlier called for the formation of a fair, impartial committee to investigate the Gereida incidents and reiterated their rejection to the committee set up by the SLM leader.

Of the peace process, Minnawi said that his movement is in informal contacts with the non-signatory groups and asked government to mandate him to contact the non-signatory factions.

CPA

SAF, SPLA reiterate commitment to redeployment schedule

(*AlSudan, 30 June '07*) Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang, Spokesperson for the Joint Defence Board, says the board will convene from 16 to 20 July in Khartoum to discuss means to resolve the problems facing the JIUs such as training and the budget. The Board will also discuss issues pertaining to SAF redeployment north of line 1.1.'56.

The JDB Spokesperson said that the two sides reiterate commitment to the redeployment plan. He also said that last Tuesday's meeting of the JDB discussed the issues of Other Armed Groups. No further problems now exist following the full resolution of the problems of these OAGs, the JDB spokesperson said.

SPLM demands GoSS shares in Abyei oil revenue

(*AlRai AlAam*) The SPLM has expressed wishes to open discussions over the oil revenue from the Abyei oilfields and to demand the GoSS share in those revenues.

The SPLM says the GoNU is yet to remit 2 years worth of oil revenue from the Abyei region

Meanwhile talks between the National Congress Party and the SPLM on outstanding issues resume tomorrow in Khartoum. Sources expect Abyei to feature prominently in the talks.

Speaker of the GoSS assembly fears census could be postponed

(*The Citizen*) The population census scheduled to take place in November this year could be extended to January next year due to logistical problems as some parts of the country are not accessible during the rainy season, says the Speaker of the GoSS Legislative Assembly.

He stressed the importance of the census to government planning, particularly with respect to effective social services and development. He also stressed the importance of the census as a prerequisite for the referendum scheduled for 2011 and in determining eligible voters.

Sudan border demarcation body optimistic to complete work before 2008 deadline

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring*) SUNA hosted yesterday a forum by the technical committee demarcating the 1 January 1956 borders. Chairman of the committee, Muhammad Khir Muhammad Ali, and the representative of the Government of Southern Sudan, Col Riak Deng Ngol, outlined the work of the committee and its plan to achieve the work in the set timeframe.

The completion of the demarcation of borders between the north and south Sudan depends on the work of a number of commissions set up in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, such as elections, population census and others. Therefore, there was need to speed up work to finalise it.

The committee has put in place a new plan to finish the demarcation of borders at the timeframe set by the Presidency. However, despite the importance of borders demarcation, the process will be hindered by some obstacles that need an attention.

Also the issue of Abyei is raising questions and its impact on the completion of borders demarcation.

DPA

World has to learn from Abuja mistake in Darfur crisis resolution-rebel

(*SudanTribune.com*) A Darfur rebel leader has cautioned the international community against the repetition of the same mistake of Abuja talks. He called for the protection of Darfur civilians before the starting of peace talks.

The leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) AbdulWahid al-Nur told the Sudan Tribune that his group would not participate in peace talks with the Sudanese government as long as the Darfur civilians are exposed to attacks of Khartoum-backed militia in the region.

The UN mission in Sudan said yesterday that insecurity continues to cause the displacement of thousands of people in South Darfur, causing the population at camps housing them to swell. Ms. Achouri cited the example of Al-Salaam camp, which had a population of 13,300 in March and now houses 28,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), “with reports of 5,000 IDPs still on their way.”

Al-Nur affirmed he wants peace today before tomorrow, adding that if we sign a peace deal under the present conditions that means that we become like those who are seeking a position in the federal government.

“If the UN, the free world and peace lovers seek to realize a genuine peace on the ground in Darfur, they have to work hard to remove the current insecurity in the region. After, we can sit to dwell on the root causes of the conflict.” “In Abuja we accepted to negotiate while the daily killing of our people going on, this time we will not repeat this major fault.” He said.

The African Union and the United Nations have published yesterday the road map of the political resolution of Darfur crisis. The two mediators suggest that the negotiations between Darfur stakeholders should during August 2007.

In a position statement issued two week ago, al-Nur said conducive environment should be created before talks through the implementation of: unconditional ceasefire all over Darfur region; a humanitarian intervention, and opening of humanitarian corridors in the region. He further requested to enforce a non-fly-zone and arm embargo; al-Nur suggested implementation of a oil-for-food programme in order to use the oil revenue to compensate victims of the conflict and reconstruction of the region.

ESPA

Second batch of ex-eastern Sudan rebels return to Kassala

(SudanTribune.com) The second batch of the Eastern Front forces, which represents the Free Lions faction, arrived in Kassala in Eastern Sudan, yesterday. They were received by the deputy governor of Kassala state, Brig-Staff Mohamed Abdelgadir.

The arrival of the forces will be completed on Saturday 30 June. One thousand two hundred eastern front forces, who represent the Beja Congress had recently arrived in Kassala.

The political leadership of the Eastern Front is expected to arrive in the first weeks of July.

GoSS

Southern Sudan’s Kiir reshuffles cabinet, parliament of Warrap and E. Equatoria

(*SudanTribune.com*) The First Vice President of the Republic and President of Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, yesterday evening issued a number of decrees reshuffling state government of Warrap through Decree number 63 relieving of State Ministers effect from 27 Jun. 2007.

The dismissed ministers are: Nyandeng Malek Dielie; Deputy Governor, and Minister of Social Welfare, Henry Kuany Aguar Duor; Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement, Elia Emilio Kersit; Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Protasio Dut Wol Nginy; Minister of Education, Majok Dut Muorwel; Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Bada Ayai Kon; Minister of Information.

While Decree number sixty 64 effected appointment of state Ministers in Warrap state as follows: Henry Kuany Aguar Duor; Deputy Governor, Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement, Elia Emilio Kersit; Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Nyandeng Malek Dielie; Minister of Education, Bada Ayai Kon; Minister of Physical Infrastructure, Asha Abas Akuei; Minister of Information and Debora Yar Manza; Minister of Social Welfare.

Equally, Decree number sixty-five relieved the following state Commissioners in Warrap : Mathew Monylek Kaang; Commissioner of the State Headquarters, Akol Gier Thiik; Commissioner of Gogrial East County, Joseph Buony Anyar; Commissioner of Tonj South County, Acuil Akoc Ajoc; Commissioner of Tonj North County and Riak Gok Majok; Commissioner of Tonj East County.

Decree number sixty-six effected appointment of Commissioners in Warrap state as follows: Angelo Awer Mabior; Commissioner of the State Headquarters, Deng Mariak Deng; Commissioner of Gogrial East County, Joseph Atem Bak; Commissioner of Tonj South County, Yol Mayar Mareng; Commissioner of Tonj North County and Ireneo Yai Mum; Commissioner of Tonj East County.

The GOSS President also issued another decree number sixty-seven for appointment of Juac Agok Anyar as Member of Warrap State Legislative Assembly with effect from 27 June 2007.

President Kiir, further issued a presidential decrees for relieving and appointment of members to the Southern Sudan and Eastern Equatoria State Legislative Assemblies with effect from 26 June 2007 as follows:

Decree number 55 for the year 2007, relieved Oreste Lopara Simon from membership of Eastern Equatoria State Legislative Assembly and, appointed Bosco Lotyang Peter as MP of the same Assembly.

Decree Number 57 relieved Mr. Mohamed Lochek of his membership from Eastern Equatoria State legislative Assembly and replaced by Charles Rino Atul

Decree number 59 relieved Henry Odwar of his membership of the Legislative Assembly of Eastern Equatoria State and replaced by Mrs. Agnes Lox as member of Eastern Equatoria state Legislative Assembly.

Kiir further issued another presidential decree number 61 relieving Ms. Joy Kwaje Eluzai of her membership of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and appointed Mrs. Catherine Poni Quirino, as member of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. When contacted for comment on her relived from GoSS assembly membership based on recommendation of USAP party, jubilant Mrs Eluzai promised to make statement later as she distributing sweets to her colleagues on occasion of her relived from assembly.

UN builds airstrip near Garamba

(The Monitor, Kampala) The United Nations has constructed an airstrip in a jungle near Garamba forest - at the Sudan-DR Congo border as part of its efforts to facilitate the peace negotiations between the Uganda government and the Lord's Resistance Army rebels.

The airstrip, near the vast Garamba National Park, can accommodate small fixed wing aircraft, which will be shuttling LRA and government delegates involved in the talks, sources in the UN said on Friday.

Until the construction of the airstrip, Garamba – where the LRA leadership such as Joseph Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti are holed up could only be accessed by helicopter.

The helicopters provided by the UN would land at Nabbanga, where the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) have a frontier guard, about 7km to the Sudan-DRC border. Delegates would then have to be driven in cars to covert the remaining journey. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), which has been facilitating the Juba talks, declined to give details about the airstrip.

The OCHA Coordination and Information Officer, resident in Southern Sudan, Melissa Phillips said: "As you are no doubt aware, information regarding airstrip coordinates is confidential. The same applies to contractual agreements between parties (i.e. they are legally commercial-in-confidence." [Follow the link to the full text [UN builds airstrip near Garamba](#)].

Law to protect press freedom

(Juba Post) The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Southern Sudan, Samson Kwaje, stated on 19 June that his ministry works to protect freedom of media from government censorship.

Kwaje, who was speaking during the a conference organized by the Association of Independent Media in Southern Sudan, at Southern Sudan Hotel, says, "The Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan should not interfere even in the editorial policies of the media." He says that, besides the protection of the freedom of expression, the ministry will also work to develop professional journalism in Southern Sudan, through the independent media associations in Southern Sudan.

The ministry has drafted a media legislation to protect freedom of the press. However, the draft will be presented to the independent media consortium and their partners in Southern Sudan for

scrutiny before it goes to the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, and finally to the Council of Ministers.

Warring Ugandan parties signs deal on accountability, reconciliation

(*SudanTribune.com*) The warring Ugandan parties have finally worked out an agreement on accountability and reconciliation and signed it, last night, at Juba Raha Hotel, after more than two months of negotiation, Chief mediator and Vice President of Southern Sudan government, Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon has announced.

The agreement, which deals with the third item on the talks' five-point agenda, will create a commission to investigate possible war crimes committed by both sides and that a traditional, tribal process will be used to try rebels accused of war crimes.

The VP said the signed agreement commits both the Lord's Resistance Army/Movement (LRA/M) and the government of Uganda to fully take charge of accountability and reconciliation that would be based on African traditional justice application combined with legal institutional framework, legislative and constitutional changes that are needed and common justice processes including sentences and sanctions. Issues pertain to gender women girls and child needs resources for its implementation.

Meanwhile the LRA spokesman, Mr. Godfry Ayo, said they are going to consult with their principle on modality of implementation processes through a guideline provided by the mediators. The LRA/M spokesman disclosed that they will resume talks on July 31st 2007. Some of the joyful members of the government delegations extended open invitation for LRA/M to return home as they greet each other. [*Follow the link to the full text [Warring Ugandan parties signs deal on accountability, reconciliation](#)*].

Darfur

Humanitarian:

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs calls for support of national voluntary agencies

(*AlKhabar*) The Directorate for Organisations at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has called for support for local NGOs operating in Darfur in order to enhance their roles and thus reduce the foreign presence in the region.

Speaking at a Workshop organised by Tayba Press in collaboration with the ministry, the head of the Directorate pointed out that there are 105 international organisations operating in Darfur and a number of national organisations but these local organisations are weak in resources.

Urgent Need to Reform Rape Laws, Says NGO

(*All Africa Global Media*) Sudan should urgently reform its laws governing rape because they expose victims to further abuse and shield perpetrators from prosecution, Refugees International (RI) has warned.

In a report titled *Laws Without Justice: An Assessment of Sudanese Laws Affecting Survivors of Rape*, RI said the current laws also limited the ability of survivors to receive medical care and generally denied them access to justice.

According to the NGO, rape of women in Darfur had occurred on a mass scale, becoming one of the hallmarks of the conflict. Because the laws grant immunity to members of the military, security services, police and border guards, Janjaweed militias involved are not prosecuted.

[\[Download a full copy of the report.\]](#)

Political:

Chadian government, opposition talks in Libya deadlocked - paper

(*Chadian opposition paper AlWihda via BBC Monitoring*) The discussions on political negotiations that opened in the Libyan capital on 23 June, to improve relations between the Ndjamena government and the opposition groups have hit a snag and are reported to be heading towards failure with regard to the conditions laid down by the parties to the conflict.

It must be recalled that at the request of Colonel Al-Qadhafi, the Chadian government dispatched to Tripoli an impressive delegation to meet with the leading rebels including Gen Mahamat Nouri of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development [UFDD], Timane Erdimi [Rally of the Forces of Chad], Aboud Makkay and Dr Amine Ben Barka [UFDD/Fundamental], then Hassane El-Djindedi, with the aim of permitting them to give the chance for a negotiated solution to the crisis that has set them against each other.

However, things have been at a standstill from the moment the rebels demanded the presence of the internal political parties, namely, the Coordination of Opposition Parties for the Defence of the Constitution and the Action for a Federal Republic led by the deputy, Ngarledji Yorongar, the main opposition figure to Idriss Deby. This request was immediately rejected by the government which considers that the conflict and the process are different and that the democratic opposition is already engaged in negotiations with the government.

Security:

Chad and Sudan to field joint border force of 20,000 strong

(*AlAyaam*) Chad's foreign minister has revealed that Chad and the Sudan have agreed to deploy a 20,000 strong joint force along their common borders and tens of Libyan and Eritrean military observers as opposed the forces proposed by the international community to guard the borders.

Speaking from Accra at the fringes of the African Union summit meeting, the Chadian minister said that leaders of the two countries had agreed that in addition to border security, the forces

will be tasked with preventing infiltration of opposition forces to the other country and stem the trade in small arms.

Presidents Bashir and Deby are expected to hold talks in Khartoum after the African Union summit meeting in Ghana.