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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN envoy on Darfur peace process holds consultations before key meeting

(*United Nations News* – 13th Jul.) The United Nations envoy tasked with re-energizing the peace process in Darfur is holding talks today in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, ahead of a key meeting to assess recent progress towards finding peace in the war-torn Sudanese region.

Jan Eliasson, the UN Special Envoy for Darfur, is having consultations with Darfur rebel groups and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki, UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

Then Mr. Eliasson heads to Tripoli, Libya, for a two-day meeting starting on Sunday that he will be jointly chairing with his African Union counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim.

The Tripoli gathering has been convened to take stock of the progress made over the past months towards holding peace talks in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2 million others displaced from their homes amid brutal fighting since 2003.

The meeting will focus on the roadmap, the joint plan of the UN and the AU to solve the conflict between the Government, allied Janjaweed militias and Darfur's many rebel groups. Negotiations between the warring parties mark the roadmap's third phase.

Ms. Okabe said invitations to the Tripoli meeting have been sent to representatives of Sudan, Chad, Egypt, the Arab League, the Security Council's five permanent members and key donors, including Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and the European Union.

European Union, UN considering force for Darfur

(*Reuters*) The European Union and the United Nations are considering sending troops and police to protect Darfur refugees and other homeless people in neighboring Chad, a senior U.N. official said on Friday.

Stressing that talks were still in the preliminary stage, Jean-Marie Guehenno, the undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping, told reporters the United Nations was studying a U.N. Security Council resolution for Chad.

This would authorize a European military force and a "multidimensional U.N. mission with a strong police component to address the security situation ... in the refugee camps and the internally displaced people," he said.

Guehenno, a Frenchman, said he was traveling to Brussels next week for discussions with EU officials. [*Follow the link to the full text* [European Union, UN considering force for Darfur](#)]

Sudan defends its record to UN human rights panel

(*Reuters*) The Sudanese government on Thursday defended its human rights record to a United Nations panel, faulting rebel groups for not stopping "gross violations" in its conflict-torn Darfur region.

Abduldam Zamrawy, undersecretary of Sudan's Ministry of Justice, told the UN Human Rights Committee that Khartoum was "carrying out its duty to protect civilians in Darfur" and fighting violence against women in the region where 200,000 people are thought to have died since 2003.

In its report to the committee, which reviews signatory states' adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Sudan said those living in areas under government control enjoyed many rights and freedoms, including access to higher education and a free press.

"Gross violations of the Covenant appear in the parts under the control of the rebel movement in southern Sudan," it said, citing ongoing fighting in the region as "a major impediment" to Khartoum providing essential services to people there, according to a written record by the United Nations.

"Another hindrance was foreign intervention, in the form of an invasion by neighboring countries and a substantial support of the rebel movement," it added.

The report side-stepped allegations that Khartoum has backed brutal militias to fight rebels in Darfur. The government said "a wide range of factions and militias" have been involved in that conflict, which it said had its roots in disputes over local resources such as water.

It told the UN panel, which will issue a formal response to the Sudanese report in late July, that female circumcision was "constantly diminishing" in Sudan in the wake of a legal ban and education campaigns.

It also claimed successes in curbing violence against women as a result of a new special police force set up to help protect people in Darfur, and efforts to teach health professionals about the procedures to follow in cases of rape or assault.

UN in flood relief effort

(UN News) The WFP launched on 12th July 2007 an emergency relief effort to deliver food and supplies to displaced people in Central Sudan, where recent floods destroyed an estimated 15,000 homes.

"WFP has joined forces with other UN agencies and the Sudanese Government to get emergency supplies, including food and non-food items, moving quickly to the victims of the flooding," said Kenro Oshidari, WFP Sudan Representative.

The agency plans to distribute food to 20,000 people in five locations near the city of Kassala, close to the Eritrean border, where the Gash River has burst its banks. WFP has 3,000 metric tons of food stockpiled in Kassala, enough to feed the flood victims for three weeks.

The agency said in a news release that it will work in the coming days with other UN agencies to determine the full extent of the damage and the level of assistance that may be required in affected central Sudanese cities. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is providing helicopters for the effort.

The UNHCR is taking part in the joint UN relief effort to help flood victims in refugee-hosting Kassala in eastern Sudan as well as in northern Blue Nile State and in four camps for the displaced near Khartoum.

The agency is part of an emergency task force of UN agencies and international NGOs to assist thousand of flood victims in four IDP camps near the capital.

The US has meanwhile expressed condolences to the flood victims in Sudan. Envoy Andrew Natsios told a select group of journalists at the Hilton Hotel on Friday that the US government and people are looking into ways to assist the flood victims in Sudan.

UN backs calls for investigations into disappearance of salaries of AMIS soldiers

(AlAyaam - Sat. 14th Jul.) The UN has backed EU demands for investigations and accountability for those responsible for the disappearance of salaries of AMIS soldiers.

Speaking at a press conference, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Aisha-Rose Migiro called for investigations into the disappearance of millions of dollars in salaries for African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan arrests opposition figures over accusation of planning sabotage

(SudanTribune.com; lead story in the local press) Sudanese security services on Saturday arrested the leader of the Umma Party (Reform Agenda) over allegations of planning sabotage actions in the country.

Sudanese security officials alleged that Mubarak al Fadil al-Mahdi and several others were planning to "stage an act of sabotage that seeks to undermine the security of the country and instigate havoc in Khartoum and cause chaos," a Sudanese official said.

The former presidential assistant was arrested along with a number of retired army generals, including retired general Mohamed Ali Hamid, who worked as deputy director of security in the late eighties, as well as former minister of tourism, Abdeljalil al-Basha,.

Sudan Tribune has also learnt that Mahmoud Hassanein, prominent opposition leader from the Unionist Democratic Party of Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani was arrested Saturday in Khartoum. Hassanein is known for his sharp criticism of the National Congress Party.

It was not clear if Hassanein's arrest was related to the alleged sabotage attempt [*latest reports say Hassanein has been released after a short arrest*].

Sudanese authorities said the plotters had secured the assistance of retired officers in the army, especially those from the Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains areas.

"Fourteen of them (retired officers) were arrested and are now being interrogated by the concerned security authorities," pro-government Sudanese Media Center (SMC) quoted a security source as saying.

The Umma Reform and Renewal party condemned the arrest of Al-Fadil and al-Basha describing it as "unconstitutional".

The security services had known of a plot since April and decided to act on Saturday "to preserve national security, SUNA said. They have been monitoring a series of meetings, recruitment operations for some retired military men, operations for transporting various weapons and hiding them in Khartoum and working out plans to create great chaos in the capital. The target was to carry out subversive acts targeting strategic institutions along with directing a call to what is called international community for immediate intervention, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement issued Saturday night adding that the 14 had been in contact with foreign countries. It did not elaborate.

Sudan Tribune has learned that the security services alleged that Al-Fadil sought financial support from Libya. The latter notified Khartoum of the contacts they had with al-Fadil. They also allege that Al-Fadil had received US blessings from the United States for the operation but did not elaborate.

The wife of Al-Fadil, Sumaya Idris, speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone denied the accusations and said that her husband "is a democratic person and always worked in that direction".

Asked as to why the Sudanese government is targeting her husband she said that "they are under pressure and they are wary of Umma party reunification going underway".

Analysts speaking to Sudan Tribune say that Al-Fadil's contacts with the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) embarrassed the ruling National Congress Party and the decided to take this measure to block any rapprochement with the Umma party in the context of the forthcoming elections.

Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir had warned last week that they monitor hostile developments adding that "no one can change the regime save through general elections."

Commenting on the arrest of the alleged plotters, Defense Minister AbdelRaheem Mohamed said that the plotters had divided Khartoum into four sectors and planned the subversive acts to continue for about a week alongside political assassinations and total chaos in the capital. This would be coupled with other acts of sabotage.

All this, the minister said, would culminate in total chaos and the call for a United Nations intervention to calm the situation. The chaos is to justify the call for a United Nations intervention. [*Follow the links to related stories [Sudan arrests opposition figures over accusation of planning sabotage](#); [PROFILE: Mubarak al-Fadil, pragmatic Sudanese politician](#)].*

Sudan accuses US envoy of being an obstacle to peace in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com; AP; Reuters*) Sudan's envoy to the UN Abdalhaleem Abdalmahmood blasted statements made by US special envoy to Sudan in which he accused Khartoum of resuming aerial bombings in Darfur and described the US diplomat as "a stumbling block to peace in Darfur". The envoy denies any government bombardments in the area.

The Sudanese government has resumed bombing civilian targets in the war-ravaged western region of Darfur, the U.S. special envoy for Darfur told reporters in Khartoum on Friday following a visit to Darfur.

Natsios said the bombing by the Sudanese military focused on the Jebel Marra region, a stronghold of Abdul Wahid Mohammed Nour, leader of a faction of one of the Darfur rebel groups, and other targets in West and North Darfur.

"I think there were four attacks in Jebel Marra Mountains. We are troubled by this, because these have been stable areas before," the U.S. envoy said.

"And there had been other bombings I think in West Darfur and North Darfur of civilian targets," he added.

The Sudanese military could not be immediately reached for comment.

Natsios also criticized rebel groups who he said were "cynically obstructing" a political settlement to the troubles in Darfur.

"All the rebel leaders need to work constructively along with the Sudanese government to facilitate not obstructing the peace process," said Natsios.

Natsios said Friday that Arab groups from neighboring countries were resettling in West Darfur and other lands traditionally belonging to local African tribes.

"It is very disturbing and provocative," he said. The migration could create problems when the crisis in Darfur is resolved and the tribes return to settle on their lands.

On its part, Sudan has called on the US administration to view its position on bilateral relations comprehensively without separating between the humanitarian and the political aspects.

The spokesman of the foreign ministry, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq, has stressed the importance of improving the bilateral relations, saying that the United States' stance in supporting the war affected region of Darfur and the flood-hit citizens in the country shall not be apart from the issue of development of the bilateral political, commercial and economic relations.

In a statement to the official SUNA on the ministry's comment concerning the statements of US envoy, Andrew Natsios, on Abyei issue, Ambassador Al-Saddiq said that no one is denying the US role in reaching the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but the US administration should leave the difference on Abyei to the two partners to resolve it, especially that they are maintaining regular joint meetings.

During his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Lam Akol, US Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios said his country would bear payment of 26 per cent of the hybrid force's costs, after referring the matter [funds offer] to the UN Security Council for approval and consulting with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to take charge of the funds.

He added that Washington would be the biggest financier of the peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

Natsios also held talks with Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei and Senior Aide Mini Minnawi. The talks focused on the situation in the region and ongoing efforts to end the crisis in Darfur. [\[Follow the link to the full texts Sudan has to cooperate over Darfur, CPA for normalisation - US; US pledges to pay 26% of Darfur peace operation; Sudan urges US to review bilateral relations comprehensively; Sudan accuses US envoy of being an obstacle to peace in Darfur\].](#)

Speaker calls for assistance to meet needs of the flood-affected

(*Rai AlShaab* – Fri. 13th Jul.) The Speaker of the National Assembly has called on the relevant organs in the state to exert more efforts to meet the basic needs to help shelter those whose houses have been destroyed by the recent rains and floods.

The Speaker was on a tour of inspection of the areas affected by the floods in East Nile Province in Khartoum State.

Citizens there requested more tents to shelter the affected.

Meeting of the CPC postponed

(*AlSudani* – 13th Jul.) A meeting of the Ceasefire Political Committee scheduled to take place last Thursday was postponed as a result of absence of some SPLM members to the committee. The joint chairmanship has agreed that the meeting be deferred to 18 and 19 July and will take place in Juba.

The meeting was to discuss a report of the CJMC that also covers the issue of the redeployment of the SAF.

Constitution Review Commission to deliberate on the elections law

(*AlSudani* – Sat. 14th Jul.) The National Constitution Review Commission starts formal deliberations over the elections bill this evening.

The Secretary-General of the commission has disclosed that there is a general view that a system that combines between the constituency and list voting be adopted. He also said that most political parties propose that the bill be adopted through wide consultations with all parties in a bid to achieve more accord on the issue.

SPLM tables its proposed ministerial amendments to the President of the Republic

(*AlSahafa* – 14th Jul.) Sources reveal that Vice-President Salva Kiir has tabled the SPLM's proposed ministerial reshuffle to President Bashir.

An SPLM official has declined to comment on the issue.

Thousands welcome SPLM governor in disputed area of Sudan

(*Reuters; AlAyaam; AlSahafa et al*) Thousands of cheering Sudanese welcomed a former rebel leader as new governor of Southern Blue Nile state on Saturday, saying he would bring real peace and development some 2-1/2 years after a north-south deal.

Malik Agar left his more prestigious post as Sudan's investment minister to take up the governorship, which rotates between the dominant National Congress Party (NCP) and Agar's former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Agar's 18 month-term will be the first time the SPLM has been in power in Southern Blue Nile state since the deal.

Agar led the rebellion in the state and is from the area, whose fate is as yet unclear despite a January 2005 peace deal. Thousands of people lined the streets as he arrived on Saturday.

"Victory Victory to Agar," they shouted as he arrived in the state capital Damazin's stadium. "Transparency, accountability, development," they chanted.

Resident al-Siddig al-Had said: "Malik is one of us and will bring us what we need: democracy and development."

Aggar pledged to provide just that. "My first priority will be development, improving the infrastructure," he said.

Aggar has declared war on graft and has stressed the need for disarming the civilian population. He called for a review of the mechanisms for implementation of the CPA and a review of education policies. He also pointed out that there is a military buildup around the state that is of much concern. He also said that he will bring the police and the security organs in Blue Nile State to operate according to the Interim National Constitution.

Governor Aggar called on the SAF to draw the Popular Defense Forces into its barracks so that they would not be subjected to the disarmament process.

Reactions to recent statements by SPLM Secretary-General

Ismail Deplores Amum's Invitation to US to Intervene in Abyei

The Presidential Advisor and NCP Communications Secretary, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, has down played the SPLM efforts to reach a peaceful resolution for the Darfur problem, describing the SPLM moves in this regard as intended to impress on the international community that it is playing an active part in the problem. In press statements he made at the NCP headquarters,

Dr. Ismail said SPLM has nothing to offer after failing to bring together the leaders of Darfur movements to urge them into joining efforts for realization of a political solution despite its recruiting of Darfur citizens in the war in South Sudan. He added that it would be more feasible for SPLM to keep its hand off the Darfur file if it has nothing more positive to give other than making press statements that do not serve the cause of Darfur. Ismail was responding to the recent statements of the SPLM General Secretary, Pagan Amum in which he invited US to take over the administration of Abyei.

He expressed misgivings regarding the SPLM adherence to the option of unity, and stressed that it is manipulating the issue of national unity as evidenced by the SPLM leaders' monopoly of all the posts in the wealth sharing without giving chance to other external elements from the South, East or the Nuba Mountains.

If the SPLM believes in and works for unity, it should have called in its ex-comrades-in-arms in the Nuba Mountains who have recently fought on its side, and made them partners in power in the South in order to convince others of this (fact), Dr. Ismail said.

Dr. Ismail deplored the statements recently made by the SPLM General Secretary, Pagan Amum, inviting the United States to take control of Abyei, arguing that if Amum had been convinced that the two parties had failed to reach an agreement on the issue, he should have called for a meeting between the Dinka and Messeriya leaders in accordance with the NCP proposal. He further indicated that Amum's invitation to the US to intervene had been preceded by a proposal made by President Bush to President Al-Bashir calling for the formation of a committee to define and agree on the borders.

He asserted that the population of the region are more aware of its intricacies than any other parties, and pointed out that the NCP welcomes a meeting between the leaders of the Dinka Ngok and Messeriya, which, he said, is more preferable to inviting American intervention in the region.

SPLM rejoinder

A statement issued by the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM recanted Dr. Mustafa's accusations and pointed out that the SPLM is still exerting efforts to bring the Darfur factions on board the peace process.

On Abyei and the US, the SPLM pointed out that the reference to the US was that the US play a role in the quest for a solution to the problems if solutions could not be reached through the Naivasha deal.

In its statement, the SPLM further pointed out that the problem of Abyei is caused by the oil factor as the area sits on about 103 oil wells. The SPLM also reiterated its commitments to work for unity as an attractive option and pointed out that there are some in the National Congress Party who also do not seek unity. It recapped on the National Congress Party's accusations of corruption within the GoSS and the SPLM by saying that graft does also exist in the north but the SPLM has at least taken steps to curb it.

It also accused the National Congress Party of inciting conflict with its reference that no representative from the Nuba Mountains has been elected to the GoSS.

On the other hand, Deputy Speaker of the Interim National Assembly, Atim Garang, has warned that the threats and arrogance in the recent statements by Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman have returned to the tone used during the years of war. He pointed out that the SPLM is prepared to deal with the National Congress Party on whatever platform the National Congress Party chooses.

GoSS

Southern Sudan bans national metrological body

(Miraya via SudanTribune.com) The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has ordered yesterday the Sudan Standards and Metrological Organization (SSMO) to stop operating in the South with immediate effect, the UN sponsored radio Miraya reported.

The GoSS Minister of Commerce, Trade and Supply, Anthony Lino Makana, has accused the (SSMO) of by-passing GoSS authorities. He further said that SSMO has to develop a clear operational framework compatible with his ministry on matters concerning grades and standards prior to establishing offices in Southern States.

He also accused it of failing to take on its proper metrological duties, and implement standards of metrological work.

The Sudan Standards and Metrological Organization was established in the 1970s to control Sudan Custom's Union, but attempts to revive its activities in Southern Sudan has not been popular.

Its members have been accused of implementing high customs charges in Kaya, a Uganda-Sudan customs border post, and in Malakal.

Arabic curriculum to be cancelled in Southern Sudan

(Akhbar Alyaum via BBC Monitoring – 13th Jul.) Plans and strategies of the Ministry of Education, Sciences and Technology of the Government of Southern Sudan [GoSS] indicate that the English language will replace Arabic as the medium of instruction in southern Sudanese schools. Schools will continue to study Arabic language as a subject.

The Council of Ministers of the GoSS had earlier endorsed the plan and finalized it in its session yesterday. The bill will then be presented for approval at the GoSS Legislative Assembly.

Juba mourns a million massacres

(The Citizen – 14th Jul.) Organisers expect hundreds to turn up today in Juba to remember the day when the SAF massacred up to a million people following a foiled SPLA attack on Juba in 1992.

Lawmakers said Friday that the SAF went on rampage indiscriminately killing people when their garrison at Kassaba was attacked and burned down to ashes following the establishment of the SPLA base in the area. The bodies were reportedly buried in mass graves.

The event led to the defection of many Equatorians and flagged off the momentum that eventually forced Khartoum to the negotiating table in 2002.

Darfur

Accounting problems are to blame for Darfur pay delays - AU

(Reuters) Accounting problems caused by demands from countries contributing troops are to blame for the long delays in paying African Union soldiers stationed in Sudan's Darfur region, a senior AU official said on Friday.

"Some troop contributing countries want the AU to pay the \$400 per person per month directly to their troops in Darfur," Geoffrey Mugumya, the AU Director of Peace and Security, told Reuters in an interview.

"Others want the AU to deduct a certain amount from the monthly payment and send it to their government and pay the remaining to troops in the field," he added.

"These different payment modes have created heavy accounting paperwork, thus forcing delay in payment."

Political:

SLM-MM withdraws from Government of North Darfur State

(*Allintibaha* – Sat. 14th Jul.) The SLM has suspended participation of its members in the executive and legislative organs of the Government of North Darfur State following recent differences and has threatened tougher administrative measures, reports SLM Press Officer, Mustafa Jameel.

He hinted that the SLM/A may go ahead and suspend participation of its representatives in the governments of the Darfurs should the problems with the North Darfur government not be radically resolved.

Libya meeting seeks to unify Darfur peace initiatives

(*AFP; the local press*) The United Nations and African Union host a meeting in Tripoli on Sunday to evaluate the troubled peace process in Sudan's war-torn Darfur, which is bedevilled by fragmented rebel groups and competing initiatives.

The meeting aims to unify competing peace plans and set the stage for negotiations, UN Sudan envoy Jan Eliasson told AFP.

Last week, following their latest mission, Eliasson expressed optimism that “the moment of truth” for Darfur was approaching. He said invitations for final negotiations could be sent out as early as September.

“I think the next month or two are going to be absolutely crucial for the future of Darfur,” Eliasson said on Saturday.

The AU said Salim has extracted a commitment from rebel chief Khalil Ibrahim of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) “to take part in all future negotiations aimed at completing the process of creating a final and lasting peace in Darfur.”

UN and AU negotiators are in near daily contact with the roughly dozen rebel groups, but many have not yet agreed to join the talks, Eliasson said.

Ali Triki, who heads the Africa desk at the Libyan foreign ministry, told AFP that “representatives of most of the Sudanese rebel movements are also in Tripoli for talks on the sidelines of the conference.

“The meeting will fix a date for the start of negotiations with the rebel groups that did not sign the Abuja accord” last year, he added.

Five rebel factions formed a new alliance on Saturday in Asmara to present a united front for peace negotiations with Khartoum and appealed “to all other movements to unify efforts,” they said in a statement.

But several major rebel groups, including the Sudan Liberation Movement, the Greater Sudan Liberation Movement and the JEM, remain outside the new alliance.

Eritrean President Issaias Afworki said in Asmara on Saturday that his country had called for “stepped up endeavors, so that the Tripoli meeting may reach a joint consensus to resolve the Darfur issue.”

The meeting comes as the UN examines a revised Security Council draft resolution authorizing a joint peacekeeping force in Darfur for an initial 12 months to replace the embattled AU force.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told a press conference late last week that the Tripoli conference will not be a forum for negotiations between government and the factions but would evaluate progress in the peace process and seek a political solution to the crisis.

On the other hand, *AlSahafa* reports last Friday that Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail has confirmed that the Darfur groups led by Sherif Hareer, Adam Bakheit, Ahmed Ibrahim Direij and the Group of 19 and the JEM will participate and there are ongoing efforts to guarantee the participation of Ahmed AbdelShafei and AbdulWahid.

He said that the Tripoli meeting would set a framework for the talks in terms of venue, date, participants and negotiations structure. He also said that the negotiations proper will not start at the Tripoli meeting.

He said that the doors will remain open before the non-signatory groups but once agreement has been reached over the above issues, then the fate of Darfur will not be linked to the position of a holdout group.

Darfur rebel form new umbrella to negotiate with Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com; Xinhua*) Five Darfur groups announced Saturday from the Eritrean capital the creation of a new rebel umbrella in a bid to reunite their effort to start peace talks with Sudanese government.

The United Front for Liberation & Development (UFLD) was created in Asmara following one and a half months of meetings by five Darfur groups with the view of “meeting the challenges in Darfur in particular and Sudan in general”.

The UFLD brings together factions of the SLM/A, the Revolutionary Democratic Front Forces (RDFF), the National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD) and the Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance (SFDA). [Follow the link to the full text of the statement [TEXT: Darfur rebel form new umbrella to negotiate with Sudan](#)].

Sudan had on Thursday urged the near two dozen rebel factions in Darfur to unify their positions to pave the way for the resumption of peace negotiations.

The demand was made by Sudanese Presidential Adviser and Secretary General of the ruling National Congress Party Nafie Ali Nafie during a meeting with U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios, the official SUNA news agency reported.

AbdulWahid informs the US of his movement's views on a comprehensive solution

(*AlSudani* – Sat. 14th Jul.) The head of the opposition SLM, AbdulWahid Nur, has embarked on a secret visit to the US at the head of a delegation of his movement. Meetings with US officials will focus on clarifying the SLM position on a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Darfur.

Informed sources opting for anonymity intimate that AbdulWahid listed the following as points to consider for solutions to the crisis: convergence of views of the Darfur factions, the establishment of a secular democracy that resolves the issues of marginalisation, bringing an end to the National Congress Party grip on power in order to establish a true Government of National Unity, compensations for those affected by the conflict in Darfur, handing over the perpetrators of war crimes to the ICC and preservation of Sudan's territorial integrity.

The same sources further reveal that the SLM intends to embark on similar tours in Europe.

The head of the SLM humanitarian arm has meanwhile informed *AlSudani* that the movement has boycotted the Tripoli talks. The movement, he says, has also called on the splinter groups to return to its folds.

Italian Parliamentary delegation visits Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) An Italian Parliamentary delegation from the Commission on Foreign Affairs visited the African Union headquarters in Darfur and met with AMIS leadership there.

The delegation headed by Umberto Ranieri, chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, expressed Italy's concern regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Ranieri stressed the need to bring the political process back to life and finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur.

Security:

Kalma Camp under siege by unidentified gunmen

(*AlKhartoum* – 13th Jul.) The humanitarian affairs coordinator in Kalma Camp in West Darfur reports that a group of about 86 unidentified gunmen on camelback have camped on the western reaches of Kalma Camp claiming that items stolen from them have been brought into the camp.

Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator AbdulGadir Bakheit Khawaja has called on the governor to put protection of the IDP population from criminals and armed militia groups as part of his government's priorities. He pointed out that the government has recently released a number of

armed bandits who had declared repentance and that this group is back plundering around the edges of the camp.

He also called on the African Union to be committed to maintaining a presence in the camp in the next 24 hours so security does not run out of hand.

A source that opts for anonymity said that negotiations are underway with the armed group about 150 meters west of the camp in a bid to resolve the problem and return the stolen items.

JEM commanders back call to isolate Dr. Khalil

(*AlWihda* – Sat. 14th Jul.) JEM Field Commander Ibrahim Bunda whom Dr. Khalil had recently ordered out of business says he still maintains his position in the movement. He pointed out that Dr. Khalil had no authority to dismiss military commanders and accused the JEM leader of trying to fragment the movement.

He further revealed that the JEM will convene a meeting next week to discuss the issue. He also said that there is a common view amongst the field commanders to isolate Dr. Khalil.

Citizen killed in police cell in South Darfur

(*AlKhartoum* – 14th Jul) 7 policemen were killed and 11 others injured in an ambush at the Marshaj area near Mannawashi in South Darfur last week following a tip-off from a citizen who claimed to have been robbed.

The citizen died in a police cell and there has been no official statement on the incidence.

[11 killed in different attacks in Darfur](#) [*SudanTribune.com quotes the UNMIS News Bulletin of 11th July 2007 for this story. NOTE: All UNMIS News Bulletins can be accessed through the website; www.unmis.org*].

Miscellaneous:

World Bank Ranks Zimbabwe Worse Than Sudan on Governance, Rule of Law

(*ZIM Online via BBC Monitoring, 13th Jul.*) Zimbabwe's rule of law record is worse than that of war-ravaged Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan, according to a new World Bank report on governance released this week.

The report titled, Governance Matters 2007: Worldwide Governance Indicators 1996-2006, also showed that Zimbabwe - currently still to come to terms with the effects of a government swoop on prices - fares badly in terms of the regulatory environment where it is again ranked lower than DRC, Sudan as well as even Iraq.

The World Bank researchers tracked movements in six key governance indicators in 212 countries during the past 10 years and countries were ranked according to their performance in

the areas of accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption.