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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Jan Eliasson optimistic about peace in Darfur
- Sudan army blast statements by UNMIS spokeswoman over troops redeployment
- Darfur militia commits human rights violations against villagers- UN
- Britain, France to push for swift UN resolution on Darfur

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Sudan warns against UN resolution on hybrid force without its consent
- Hybrid force to spread "infectious diseases" in Darfur - Sudan TV
- SPLA says fully redeployed below 1.1.'56 line
- Coverage on VP Salva Kiir's tour in China
- White Nile Board refuses to quit oil block; citizens around Block Ba threaten war should Total return
- Parties call for independent electoral commission
- Floods update

➤ **GoSS**

- GoSS convenes conference on urban planning
- Oil firms fight back against eviction
- SPLM Secretary-General says southern Sudan now out of GoNU control

➤ **Darfur**

- Could Darfur lake escalate violence?
- Washington says prepared to assist the ICC in the capture of Haroun and Khosheib
- Unrecognised Darfur IDPs complain of falling through the cracks (SudanTribune.com)
- Sudan's Bashir urges peace in troubled Darfur
- Hybrid force commander concerned by Darfur newcomers
- French FM, chief of Darfur AU-UN mission discuss troops deployment
- Two Darfur rebel groups set conditions for peace meeting
- Armed group attacks Babanousa-El-Diein-Nyala train
- Armed group attacks relief convoy
- UN urges deployment of EU force to stem Darfur spillover
- Chadian Opposition Threatens to Resist Any Foreign Intervention

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Jan Eliasson optimistic about peace in Darfur

(www.Sudanvisiondaily.com; www.sudantribune.com) The UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson is optimistic about the peace process in Darfur. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, said Eliasson in a press conference in Khartoum on 19th July 2007. He informed the media that during the next two months, a serious process could start towards negotiations and talks towards normalization of the conditions in Darfur and the beginning of peace.

Adding, we have an opportunity and were given a tremendously strong support by the whole international community in Tripoli. There is a document which is available to you and which shows that we are now unified on the lead of the African Union and the United Nations of the efforts. We have help from the regional actors, not least Eritrea, Libya and Chad. We also have the help of other political forces inside Sudan to bring about a negotiation process.

Eliasson stated that invitations for negotiations for the peace in Darfur may be sent out before the end of August as the UN and AU envoys have been directed to do so by the Tripoli meeting. At the same time he affirmed that the government of Sudan has indicated its openness to the issue of the date and venue of the negotiations.

On the issue of inclusiveness of all stakeholders in Darfur in a sustainable peace, Eliasson said, There is need to focus on the Arab tribes because that element will now be highlighted in our work. We would want to find a form of representation that will bring in their voices before, during, and after the negotiations.

With regard to the hybrid forces, he stated that he was very happy that there has been an agreement on both the Heavy Support Package and the hybrid. We hope to see these deployed as soon as possible. This will have a positive impact also on the political process. I welcome the fact that the Government of Sudan is now cooperating on this. But as I always said and you heard me say this before for peacekeeping to be effective, there has to be peace to keep. It will have a positive impact on humanitarian operations as we want to move from the humanitarian stage to the development stage, Eliasson concluded

The UN envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, has appealed the leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), AbdulWahid al-Nur to attend the forthcoming meeting to prepare peace talks with Khartoum to defend his plight.

Eliasson, who spoke lengthily about Darfur IDPs and their suffering in the camps, urged Abdelwahid al-Nur to attend Arusha meeting, and regretted his rejection saying "I also hope that they (Abdelwahid) understand that we want to put the IDP population interest in the center of these negotiations: the need for compensation, the need for security, the right to return to their land, which is an absolutely crucial issue."

In an implicit response to Al-Nur request related to the deployment of International troops Eliasson said "I am very happy that there has been an agreement on both the Heavy Support Package and the hybrid. We hope to see these deployed as soon as possible."

He also repeatedly mentioned that they asked Khartoum to collaborate and to not carry out military operation during the talks.

"We hope that he understands that this process is a serious one and that he will be taking part in it. We need him on our side and I hope that we will see a positive influence from him. We hope that he will have some type of representation from his side in Arusha but, above all, we hope and count very much on him playing a role in the negotiations process." Eliasson said.

The AU-UN mediators consider Arusha meeting as the anti-chamber for the peace talks. Eliasson said, "We hope that by the process that we are now sketching and showing, rather, they would be encouraged to bring their positions together and unify them as much as possible. If they could go on further and identify a common negotiations team that would of course be ideal."

Also Eliasson said the peace talks with Khartoum will be kept to limited group of rebel movements but they will do the necessary to bring the voice of the other political and social forces in the region.

Sudan army blast statements by UNMIS spokeswoman over troops redeployment

(*SudanTribune.com* – July 20, KHARTOUM) The Sudanese army issued a statement yesterday condemning statements on troops redeployment made by the spokesperson for the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

UNMIS Spokesperson, Radhia Achouri, on July 18 told reporters during the weekly press briefing that the Sudanese army has not redeployed troops from the oil rich Upper Nile state in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. (CPA)

Achouri said that Sudan's army "has not fully redeployed by 9 July 2007 and continues to maintain approximately 3,600 troops in Upper Nile State, in violation of the CPA".

The Spokesperson for the Sudanese army Lt. Col Osman Al-Agbash angrily responded saying that Achouri turned a blind eye to the fact that SPLA has only completed of 7.9% of their redeployment per the CPA.

Al-Agbash stressed that the Sudanese army will not redeploy troops from oil rich areas until the SPLA does the same.

The CPA dictates that oil rich areas are to be patrolled by joint troops from the Sudanese army and the SPLA.

In a meeting of Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) held on Tuesday July 17 in Juba, the Sudanese army and the SPLA traded accusations over the redeployment of troops from the Upper Nile, the areas that produce Sudan's vital 500,000 barrels per day of crude oil.

The two parties agreed to submit the divergence to the Ceasefire Political Commission (CPC).

This is the second time this year Achouri comes under fire for statements made by her during the weekly press briefings.

Last May the Sudanese justice Minister Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi warned Achouri not to go down the same road of the expelled UN Special Representative to Sudan Jan Pronk. [*See attached separately the full text of the SAF statement*].

Darfur militia commits human rights violations against villagers- UN

(AP – July 20, GENEVA) Villagers in western Darfur told U.N. staff they were beaten, abducted and sexually assaulted by armed men in military uniforms, a U.N. human rights official said Friday.

Jose Diaz, spokesman for U.N. human rights chief Louise Arbour, said the alleged abuses occurred earlier this month in Bir Dagig, near Sudan's border with Chad. They were committed by armed men in military uniforms riding on camels and horses, he said.

U.N. staff have visited the village twice this month and collected accounts from villagers of abuses. There were no reports of deaths. During their second visit, on Wednesday, U.N. officials were forced to leave the village.

"They personally witnessed the arrival of armed men who surrounded the village center and demanded money in compensation for the alleged theft of the livestock," Diaz said.

Diaz said the Sudanese government initially deployed extra police to the village, but withdrew them completely in April. "There's no police presence in this village now," he said.

The government has promised the U.N. that it would investigate the dispute and the alleged rights abuses. It also has pledged to deploy a permanent police presence to Bir Dagig, but "these things have not been done so far and human rights abuses and intimidation persist," Diaz said.

Diaz said Arbour, the U.N. rights chief, is demanding that Sudan step up protection for the citizens of Darfur.

Britain, France to push for swift UN resolution on Darfur

(Reuters/AFP – July 21, PARIS) Britain and France said on Friday they would push for the U.N. Security Council to quickly authorize thousands of troops and police for Darfur and told Khartoum to act fast on the crisis or face more sanctions.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown told a news conference they would dispatch their foreign ministers to U.N. headquarters in New York to pressure the council's disputing members into reaching an agreement fast.

The official spokesperson of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Ali el-Sadig, revealed he had previously reached an understanding with the French Foreign Minister and that the British Minister of International Cooperation during his recent to Khartoum made no mention to that. Britain and France on Friday said they would pressure the Security Council to adopt a resolution on urgent deployment of thousands of troops and Civpol in Darfur, warning Khartoum that it has to act fast or otherwise face more sanctions. This new development has prompted the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Alsamani Al-Wasila, to accuse some countries he did not name of seeking to misrepresent in the hybrid forces motivated by dubious agendas. [*Read more: [Britain, France to push for swift UN resolution on Darfur](#); [GoS Unconcerned about Sarkozy, Brown Statements](#)].*

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan warns against UN resolution on hybrid force without its consent

(*SudanTribune.com; Khartoum Monitor* – July 21, KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government has warned the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution on the UN-AU hybrid force without its approval.

Sudan's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem said in press statements that his government submitted a list of its reservations on the proposed text of the resolution.

The Sudanese government has also objected to the language on the mandate allowing the force to "use all necessary means" to protect civilians.

AbdelHaleem said that the proposed text "brings back the same controversial issues that caused disagreement between Khartoum and some UNSC members".

Sudan's envoy said that the text of the resolution places the force under the UN command against the will of Khartoum which insists on the "African nature of the force".

AbdelHaleem cautioned that unless Sudan's concerns are addressed the resolution will "have the same fate as resolution 1706".

Sudan's interior minister has also blasted the US and the UK for threatening the GoS with a new draft resolution in the Security Council. He pointed out that the Sudan is not in need of aid and relief from the West but only wants them not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Referring to the deployment of international forces to Darfur without Sudan's consent, the minister said that severe penalties will await those who illegally enter the country and

unauthorized foreign intervention will not be allowed. *Akhir Lahza* daily of last Friday quoted the minister as warning that any such forces will be squashed.

Meanwhile, on Friday a State Department official, speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity said that the US wants a resolution that clearly provides for "U.N. command and control with a single chain of command and a Chapter VII authority to use all means to protect civilians".

"Our position on this is not negotiable," the official added.

It is not clear how the differences between UNSC and Khartoum can be bridged. The leaders of France and Britain said Friday that they will send their foreign ministers to New York to push for U.N. action "with the greatest speed."

Hybrid force to spread "infectious diseases" in Darfur - Sudan TV

(*BBC Monitoring* - July 21, KHARTOUM) Sudan's state-run TV has launched an unprecedented attack on the planned deployment of around 20,000 UN and AU peacekeepers in the troubled western region of Darfur, suggesting the troops will spread "moral decadence" and "infectious diseases" in the area.

Sudanese government officials have in the past accused Darfur-based AU peacekeepers, especially from Rwanda, of "bringing AIDS" and other diseases to the volatile area.

A lengthy commentary-style report broadcast by Sudan TV on 18 July during its prime time evening bulletin at 1900 gmt, cautioned the Sudanese people against what it unquestioningly referred to as "the deviant social behavior" of the "alien forces". The commentary was the last item in the bulletin.

This style of reporting - coming so soon after Khartoum reluctantly bowed to international pressure and accepted the deployment - raises questions about Sudan's sincerity and commitment.

If Khartoum has accepted the deployment in good faith, why would Sudan TV - a government mouthpiece - mount a such an audacious campaign of vilification against the troops? Is this just rhetoric, or should one read more into this?

The report in question begins as an ordinary piece of news - the opening 18 July of a symposium in Khartoum organized by the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies under the theme: The social impact of the deployment of the hybrid forces in Darfur.

The report goes on to say that several "prominent" sociologists from local universities presented their papers, all stressing the "negative impact" that would flow from such a deployment.

These experts suggest that Darfur's "social cohesion" would be under threat. The traditions and cultures of the Darfuris would also be adversely affected, the report quotes some of the sociologists as saying.

One sociologist is shown on TV waving a copy of a book which he says has a cover picture of a Darfuri girl with "blue eyes". This, the sociologist suggests, is an indication there is a "conspiracy" to "transform African societies to become hybrid".

It is interesting the sociologist used the word "hybrid" deliberately, because this is the same word being used to describe the mixed UN, AU troops to be deployed in Darfur.

The report further quotes Samia Ahmad Muhammad, the minister of women and children's affairs, who was presumably at the meeting as urging Darfuris to protect the "noble values" of the Sudanese people and to be vigilant against aping foreign values.

"Given that the budget of the hybrid forces for one year is estimated at 5.2bn dollars, it is clear there is a hidden agenda. It is worth pointing out that only a fraction of this budget is enough to help resolve the fundamental issues of development and reconstruction in Darfur, which is at the root of the problem," says the reporter.

The commentator-cum-reporter ends his piece with the question: "Will the people of Darfur welcome the strangers from abroad and what would Darfur reap from the hybrid forces?" The reporter here uses an Arabic play with words or pun, which connotes "loss".

SPLA says fully redeployed below 1.1.'56 line

(*Akhbar Alyaum; The Citizen; Khartoum Monitor* – July 22, KHARTOUM) The SPLA has asserted it has no presence in the oil fields and has fully redeployed its units that were stationed in the Nuba Mountains areas of Southern Kordofan and in Blue Nile State.

Bior Ajiang, SPLA Deputy Chief of Staff, member of the Joint Defence Board and Spokesperson for the Technical Committee of the JDB, told *Akhbar Alyaum* that the SPLA has fully redeployed south of the 1.1.'56 line. He said it redeployed from Kauda in the Nuba Mountains on July 8 and from Kurmuk in Blue Nile State on July 9.

He said that the redeployment was carried out in the presence of the UN and called on the monitors to visit the areas where the SPLA forces were stationed north of 1.1.'56 and the areas to which they have redeployed.

Ajiang called on the SAF to withdraw their 3,600 strong force from the oil fields so the army both sides agreed upon could take over the task of protecting the oil fields. The JDB may discuss over the issue should it be deemed that the oil fields require protection from a larger force.

He said that the JDB will be holding a meeting in the next few days to discuss the issue of redeployment south and north of line 1.1.'56 and of the SAF presence in the oilfields. The results

of the meeting will be tabled before the Presidency of the Republic to take the appropriate decision on.

In a related story and commenting on recent SAF accusations that the SPLA has not withdrawn its forces from northern Sudan, SPLM Deputy Secretary-General/ Northern Sector and Governor of Blue Nile State, Malik Aggar, pointed out that he is currently the commander of the SPLA in the Blue Nile region and confirms that all SPLA soldiers have fully redeployed. He said that the remaining forces will operate as part of the JIUs.

He said that the exercise was carried out in the presence of the UN and Generals from the SAF and that the UN is currently on the way to verify. The same, he said, is also true about redeployment from South Kordofan.

He said SPLA redeployment to points south of line 1.1.'56 now stands at 80% of the requirements of the CPA.

On his mission as the Governor of Blue Nile State, Aggar said that his office will be for the realization of equity but not equality.

Coverage on VP Salva Kiir's tour in China

(*Xinhua* – July 21, HANGZHOU, China) Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit expressed his willingness to cement relationship between Sudan and China during his tour to east China's Zhejiang Province on Saturday.

In Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang, Lu Zushan, provincial governor, met with Mayardit and briefed him on the economic and social development of the province.

"A border commission has been formed and they have started moving to recce (do reconnaissance on) the border areas and to talk to the local population to find out what landmarks used to demarcate the border," Kiir said during a visit to Beijing.

"Maybe toward the end of this year, after the rains, this committee will implement their functions of demarcating the border. Toward the end of next year I think we will get a final report from this commission," he told a news conference.

While visiting China, a major investor in Sudan's oil sector, southerner Kiir assured business leaders Sudan would protect their safety and respect contracts signed before the war, and he said Chinese oil exploration could continue to expand in Sudan, although he gave few details.

Kiir said there were no new deals agreed during his trip to Beijing, though he discussed opportunities in southern Sudan with the Chinese business community on Thursday.

Kiir said even if south Sudan decided to separate, the government would continue to uphold any prior contracts signed with Khartoum's coalition. [*Follow the related links for more [Sudan expects](#)*

[cemented relation with China - Kiir](#); [Sudan to mark north-south border by end 2008 - Kiir](#); [Sudan's First Vice President relays Olympic message to China](#)].

White Nile Board refuses to quit oil block; citizens around Block Ba threaten war should Total return

(*The Citizen; AlSudani* – July 21, JUBA) White Nile Company has resolved not to leave the oil block, nearly a month after a Presidential Decree forced the company out of Sudan.

The board of the oil company met Thursday and resolved that the company continue with its community activities in the area until the GoSS and the SPLM ask White Nile to quit. Until then, the company won't seek compensation from the government under the Presidential Decree that directed the oil firm be compensated.

The board also resolved to support the National Congress Party-SPLM committee's resolutions that divided Block Ba under a share-holding deal that would include White Nile, the source said on condition of anonymity.

In a related development, *AlSudani* daily reports that the results of a poll carried out in Bor and Fadak that are in the contested Block Ba area show that they are totally against the return of French oil giants, Total. They have threatened a return to war should Total return to operate in those areas. .

Their heated arguments are based on the allegation that the Khartoum government has a hand in the company and that France had backed the Sudanese army in its military campaigns in the south in the early 1990's.

Parties call for independent electoral commission

(*AlSahafa* – July 22, KHARTOUM) Thirteen political parties have agreed on perspectives on an electoral law that the National Constitution Review Commission is currently working to draft.

The parties said in a statement issued yesterday that conducting of a free and fair elections in a conducive climate that guarantees the freedom of to choose demands the revocation of coercive laws and that membership to the electoral commission be elected through consultations and with the participation of all political parties. This electoral commission, they maintain, should have financial and administrative independence.

Floods update

(*AlSahafa* – July 22, KHARTOUM) Three people were drowned by flood waters in Sheikan, North Kordofan.

The waters also swept out about 3 kilometres of the tarmac road connecting el-Ebeidiya to Abu-Hamad in River Nile State.

In Red Sea State, the floods partially destroyed the Khor Birka Bridge and also swept out about 13 kilometers of tarmac thus completing cutting off Tokar town

Parts of Dongola are also surrounded by the floodwaters. The northern parts of the country has also seen relief airdrops as a result of the floods.

The GoSS has also sent out requests for assistance from the federal government to help it manage the floods in Upper Nile, Jonglei, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Lakes regions.

Authorities meanwhile warn that the levels of the waters of the Nile have almost reached the critical point.

EDITORIAL: The Editorial in *AlAyaam* daily of today comes under the title, “The Military Situation in the South”. The paper warns that a conflict seems to be in the pipeline as a result of the contested figures of the SAF and SPLA redeployment. It points out that the problem is not between the government and the UNMIS but has rather existed between the Parties.

Against the backdrop of these trade in accusations, the paper points out that the solution lies in arbitration by the Ceasefire Political Committee or the Presidency.

GoSS

GoSS convenes conference on urban planning

(*Khartoum Monitor* - July 22, JUBA) Juba will host the first Southern Sudan Conference on Urban Planning on 24 to 27 July this year.

Organised by the GoSS’ Ministry of Housing, Lands and Public Utilities, the conference is a culmination of work done in town planning workshops led throughout southern Sudan by a team of urban and regional town planning experts. The overarching objective of the conference is to coordinate and orchestrate national and regional efforts in creating a modern urban development system of governance in southern Sudan.

Oil firms fight back against eviction

(*The Citizen*- July 22, JUBA) A standoff emerged between state officials and Juba’s refilling station ordered to move within 72 hours from areas surrounding the Bank of Southern Sudan.

State ministries of legal affairs and the environment have asked Nimule Transport and Nile’s Royal companies to move but have not provided alternate premises nor told them of modalities for compensation.

The proprietor of Nimule Transport and Petroleum Company is considering suing the state.

SPLM Secretary-General says southern Sudan now out of GoNU control

(*AlSahafa* – July 22, JUBA) SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum admits there are delays in the implementation of the CPA and accuses the National Congress Party for intentionally delaying implementation because it “lacks the will to institute amendments to laws that do not comply to the CPA”.

He told *AlSahafa* in an interview that the SPLM has started to reduce the hold of the federal government on the regions as per the CPA. He said that the south is now out of the hold of the GoNU at a time when the country is headed towards elections.

More on Southern Sudan: [Widows demand to know fate of Husbands disappeared in Juba Incidents](#)

Darfur

Could Darfur lake escalate violence?

(*Earthtimes.org*) The huge underground lake believed to underlie the Darfur region in Sudan could escalate the conflict in the region.

A recent U.N. report suggested desertification and scarce resources have caused Darfur's problems, suggesting that a stable water supply could ease them. But Alex de Waal, a researcher who was in Sudan in the mid-1980s when the region was hit by famine, is less optimistic.

"Like all resources water can be used for good or ill," de Waal told The New York Times. "It can be a blessing or also a curse. If the government acts true to form and tries to create some sort of oasis in the desert and control who settles there, that would simply be an extension of the crisis, not a solution."

Researchers at Boston University announced their discovery of the lake this week. They said it is as big as Lake Erie.

Washington says prepared to assist the ICC in the capture of Haroun and Khosheib

(*AlSahafa* – July 22, WASHINGTON) The legal advisor to the US Department of State says his country is willing to consider any request from the ICC to assist in the arrest of Haroun and Khosheib.

He said that the US may not be a signatory to the ICC but believes in its goals. He also pointed out that an exception in US Military Law allows for such cooperation.

A state minister at Sudan's foreign ministry says these statements by the US foreign office does not come as a surprise.

Humanitarian:

Unrecognised Darfur IDPs complain of falling through the cracks

(*IRIN* – July 21, EL-FASHER) Displaced people living in squalid shelters on the fringes of an official displacement camp in Sudan's North Darfur region lack relief services as the official camp is full. Efforts by a visiting British official this week to persuade local authorities to open a new site to accommodate the overflow of Al Salaam camp near El Fasher, capital of North Dafur state, failed.

Dozens of displaced families said they came here about 14 months ago from villages in North Darfur, fleeing renewed fighting in the region, but were not allowed to settle in the Al Salam camp proper, which already hosts 50,000 IDPs.

Humanitarian officials in the camp said it had reached its maximum capacity and could not accommodate the new arrivals, who have been reluctant to go to other sites. The additional internally displaced people (IDPs) [*Read more: [Unrecognised Darfur IDPs complain of falling through the cracks](#)*].

Political:

Sudan's Bashir urges peace in troubled Darfur

(*AFP/AP/SudanTribune.com* – July 21, NYALA) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir launched a call for peace on Saturday during a rare visit to war-torn Darfur intended to show Khartoum's desire to develop the arid desert region.

Speaking to a gathering in the capital of south Darfur Nyala, 600 miles southwest of the capital Khartoum, Bashir called on non-signatory rebels to join May 2006 deal. "The citizens just want a comprehensive peace followed by development," Bashir said. "That is why I call on the armed rebels to join the political process so that together we can reconstruct Darfur."

During his three-day visit, Bashir is due to inaugurate several projects including new roads and hospitals, in the three states of Darfur.

Al-Bashir urged "those still in the bushes" to return home and join the peace process and promised compensation for losses incurred during the conflict.

"If you preserve the current peace and security ... we will shoulder the responsibility of development and see to it that you get compensation," he added. "We want the displaced persons to return to their home areas and cultivate the land."

Al-Bashir pledged not to allow any infringement on Sudan's unity and independence. He said only those who want to help are welcome — not those seeking to "colonize us," invoking historical battles against British colonial rule.

"Darfur problem now is the existence of IDP camps which have become a sort of exhibition, a show for people from everywhere," al-Bashir said this evening in El-Fasher during a meeting with the representative of IDPs, the official SUNA reported. The President hailed IDP

representatives who announced that 1,220 families from different tribes residing in the el-Salaam and Abu-Shouk IDP camps near el-Fasher have expressed their wishes to go back home.

Accompanied by his ministers, al-Bashir was to also visit El Fasher, capital of North Darfur, where a Cabinet meeting will be held Sunday. On Monday, he is to fly to El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, before returning to Khartoum the same day. In Nyala, al-Bashir criticized those trying to divide the citizens of Darfur as Arabs and Africans. "This is but a plot that seeks to divide people as Arabs and (Zorgah) blacks," he said. "Those who make such distinction seek sedition and plotting, do not listen to them."

The Governor of North Darfur welcomed the visit of the President and the Council of Ministers and says this shows their concern on the situation in the region.

He said Sudan was ready to adopt any initiative that would provide a solution to the Darfur question in a way that safeguards the sovereignty of the country and the dignity of its people.

Of the DPA, the governor says the agreement has achieved many gains for the country including the alleviation of the severity of war, accelerating the wheel of development and increasing the number of citizens returning to their home villages.

Hybrid force commander concerned by Darfur newcomers

(SudanTribune.com – July 20, EL-FASHER) During a meeting with Britain's new international aid minister, the AU-Un force commander has expressed fears that IDPs who abandoned their villages and live currently in the camps may not be allowed to return to their villages after peace.

General Martin Luther Agwai, who is currently in the process of completing familiarization tours of the AMIS sectors around Darfur, expressed his concern that the current security and humanitarian crisis in Darfur will be compounded if the Internally Displaced (IDPs) are not allowed to return to their villages, once peace is established on the ground.

He said he noticed that cross-border tribes are now occupying some villages abandoned due to the ongoing violence while the original inhabitants live in IDP camps. [[Follow the link to the full text Hybrid force commander concerned by Darfur newcomers](#)].

French FM, chief of Darfur AU-UN mission discuss troops deployment

(SudanTribune.com – July 21, KHARTOUM) French Minister for European and Foreign Affairs, Bernard Kouchner received in Paris yesterday 20 July, 2007. Rodolphe Adada, AMIS Head of Mission and AU-UN Special Joint Representative for Darfur.

The two parties discussed the deployment of 3,000 UN personnel scheduled in the UN heavy support package for the African peacekeeping force, "consistent with Adada's recent declaration to the media in Khartoum that a strong and effective AMIS is essential for the success of the Hybrid Operation;" the statement said.

Adada's discussions with Kouchner also touched on the current efforts to revive the political process between the government of Sudan and Darfur rebel Movements, ahead of the crucial pre-negotiations scheduled to take place in Arusha, Tanzania on August 3-5, 2007. [Follow the link to the full text [French FM, chief of Darfur AU-UN mission discuss troops deployment](#)].

Two Darfur rebel groups set conditions for peace meeting

(Reuters – Jul. KHARTOUM) The leaders of two important Darfur rebel factions have set difficult conditions for attending a U.N.-African Union meeting in August in Tanzania to plan for future peace talks.

Most Darfur rebel groups, including a new rebel umbrella of five groups formed last week under Eritrean mediation, said they would attend but founder and chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement AbdulWahed Mohamed el-Nur said his group would not go to Arusha for peace talks until demands were met. These demands include compensations for victims, a no-fly zone over Darfur, compensations and an oil-for-food program.

Nur has few loyal troops left but he is from Darfur's largest Fur tribe and enjoys huge popular support, especially in the camps.

Commander Jarel-Nebby of another key group with a large contingent of troops said it would not go to Arusha until an SLM unity meeting took place. But he added that the AU and United Nations were moving in the right direction.

"We will go and listen to what is there; if it helps unify the people then we will follow it up. We have done our bit to unify. We hope the others also make that move," Sherif Harir, a senior member of the newly formed United Front for Liberation and Development, told Reuters.

The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Khalil Ibrahim also said it would attend the meeting.

Other smaller factions of the SLM are negotiating to unite in Tripoli under Libyan mediation and agreed to go to Arusha.

Observers say Harir's group in Asmara contains senior and respected SLM figures but it is unclear how many troops are still under their control in Darfur. JEM and the Tripoli grouping have few soldiers and the leadership has been criticized for remaining outside the region.

Security:

Armed group attacks Babanousa-El-Diein-Nyala train

(AlAyaam – July 22. Khartoum) An armed group attacked last Saturday the Babanousa-El-Diein-Nyala train around the Abu-Jabra area.

Sources reveal that the train was only carrying its crew and protection detail and had no cargo or passengers on board when attacked. The armed group held the crew for a short while and then released them, report sources.

Angered by this development, railway workers have vowed not to ply the route unless provided with heavy security.

Armed group attacks relief convoy

(SMC – July 22, EL-FASHER) Elements of the National Redemption Front recently attacked a relief convoy on its way from el-Fasher to Kutum locality.

One of the trucks drivers reported that the six attackers looted all the relief stuff on board that were destined to the IDP camps and injured one passenger who was later rushed to el-Fasher hospital for treatment.

UN urges deployment of EU force to stem Darfur spillover

(AFP – July 21, UN) A UN relief aid coordinator on Friday appealed for an early deployment of EU troops along with a UN police force in Chad and the Central African Republic, both reeling from the spillover from the Darfur conflict.

John Holmes, who heads the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the EU force and the UN police component were needed as soon as possible to provide a more peaceful environment for internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as for humanitarian workers to operate.

EU officials are to meet in Brussels Monday to study a UN request for the military deployment in the two African countries bordering Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region.

An EU diplomat said earlier this week that political approval for the move could come as early as September, adding: "Deployment could then start in October, in phase with what the United Nations does."

Another diplomat said that the European Union was mulling a force of between 1,500 and 2,500 soldiers, mainly to be contributed by France, which already has soldiers based in both Chad and CAR, two former French colonies.

Chadian Opposition Threatens to Resist Any Foreign Intervention

(SMC – July 22, KHARTOUM) The Chairman of the Chadian National Movement for Reconciliation, Dr. Hassan Salih Al Gundi, has declared that his forces will fight any foreign troops sent to the country.

He said President Idris Deby has responded to French president Sarkozy under pressure for sending foreign troops to Chad.

On the other hand, Dr. Al Gundi describes president Deby allegation that Sudan sabotages reconciliation in Chad as baseless.

Meanwhile ministry of foreign affairs Spokesperson Ali Al Sadig stated that Idris Deby before any else person that Khartoum is exerting intense efforts for reaching reconciliation in Chad.