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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

AU calls for better cooperation with former Darfur rebels

(AP via SudanTribune.com) The African Union mission in Darfur called Sunday for better cooperation between its peacekeepers and the former rebels now aligned with the Sudanese government — and demanded the ex-rebels return a dozen vehicles they have stolen.

Sudan's army and allied militias known as the janjaweed are accused of the bulk of the violence against civilians in Darfur, where over 200,000 people have died and 2,5 million been displaced in four years of fighting in this western Sudanese region.

But Darfur's dozen splinter rebel factions are blamed for many of the hijackings that are seriously hindering efforts of aid workers in the region.

Such is also the case with troops loyal to Minni Minawi _the only rebel leader to sign the May 2005 Darfur Peace Agreement.

In one recent case, a former rebel patrol clashed with AU soldiers during a road accident and then captured 13 of the peacekeepers' cars.

This constitutes "a serious violation and a manifestation of bad faith" in the Darfur peace deal, AU chief of mission Monique Mukaruliza said, warning that the car-hijacking had "paralyzed AU activities" in that part of Darfur.

AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni said that the former rebels had restituted one AU vehicle hijacked in a separate incident, but hadn't returned any of the 13 cars.

"We absolutely need to have better cooperation with Minawi's field commanders to improve the situation on the ground," Mezni said.

Mohamed Beshir, Minawi's chief of staff, said that the group's commanders have received orders to release the cars but that "it's difficult" and that such "kind of discipline problem" exists "in any guerrilla movement."

The U.N. mission in Sudan also said Minawi's men carjacked, then detained six international aid workers for a day last week in northern Darfur.

More recently, Khartoum newspapers quoted Sudanese officials investigating the murder of an Egyptian Lt. Colonel as saying the suspects were men linked to Minawi's movement.

Beshir, the SLM chief of staff, adamantly denied implications in any of the incidents. "So far, nobody has brought forward any proof that any of our men were involved," Beshir said, adding that "if someone took part in any of these crimes, he would immediately be punished."

But SLM leaders acknowledge a lack of discipline, claiming it's partly the international community's fault because it hasn't fulfilled pledges under the peace deal to support and payroll the former rebels. [Follow the link to the full text [AU calls for better cooperation with former Darfur rebels](#)].

UN human rights council set to discuss Darfur, Middle East

(DPA via NewsEdge, 10 June, Geneva) Darfur and the Middle East will again be on the agenda Monday as the UN Human Rights Council begins the final session of its first year in Geneva.

The 47 members are to mark the council's first anniversary by agreeing to many of the newly formed body's special procedures and mechanisms.

The process for scrutinizing in turn each country's record on human rights, the so-called universal periodic review, is expected to be defined, and the first reviews should start before the end of the year. The council's system of special rapporteurs is still being debated, with discussions on country-specific rapporteurs set to run into the second year.

The UN Support Package to the AMIS

Sudan delegation to tripartite meeting on hybrid operation leaves Sunday for Addis Ababa

(SMC – 10 June) Sudan delegation leaves for Addis Ababa Sunday to participate in tripartite meeting between the government, UN and the African Union, which will discuss proposals concerning the hybrid operation for peacekeeping in Darfur. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mutrif Sidik leads Sudan's delegation. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Sadik said in a statement to SUNA that Sudan's delegation to the meeting, which starts on Monday, is carrying the government's vision on the proposals.

Meanwhile, Sudan Envoy to the African Union Ambassador Mohi-Eddin Salim, pointed out in a statement to SUNA, that the meeting is considered as a consultative one.

The meeting comprises three parties on the details of the hybrid operation concerning troops and command in accordance with what had been agreed upon in Addis Ababa understandings, the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in Abuja in November 2006 and the presidential statement issued by the Security Council on December 19, 2006.

He pointed out that the troops as had been agreed upon are Africans and the commander is African and the role of the UN is the logistic, administrative, technical and financial support as well as focusing on supporting the political process. Ambassador Salim said that they expect that the discussions would be in light of these backgrounds. He added that the delegations that had participated in the meeting on the heavy support package on April 9 would be the same ones that

would participate in the meeting on the hybrid operation, expressing optimism for reaching agreement as what had happened in the previous meeting.

CPA

Pagan Amoum says the SPLM case is to end the rule of Arab oppressors on southerners

(*AlIntibaha*) Speaking to Saudi-based *Ukkaz*, SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum said the main aim of the SPLM is to build a new Sudan that puts a stop to the domination of the “state Arab traders and their suppression of southerners”.

The SPLM figure also accused their partners in the Government of National Unity of trying to block progress of the SPLM be it financially or through support of other armed groups or through demoralizing supporters through fabricating reports of corruption. He did concede that there is corruption within the SPLM leadership, talk about the issue is in itself a healthy practice.

The SPLM Secretary-General said that attractive unity strongly depends on efforts to that end from the north.

SPLM renews adherence to the ABC experts report on Abyei

(*Alwan*) The SPLM has reiterated adherence to the report of the Panel of Experts on the Darfur boundaries.

An MP on the SPLM ticket warned that any renegeing on this issue will lead the country “back to square one”. He wondered why some members are afraid of going back to war and pointed out that war is inevitable if the CPA is violated.

The MP also lashed out at critics who describe the SPLM as the new colonial masters of the south. He said that the CPA gives the SPLM the right to rule southern Sudan.

Atem Garang says secession better than a return to war

(*AlKhartoum*) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Atem Garang says a return to war is not in the interest of the people of Sudan as it means total destruction of the country.

He said that there may be some people who are trying to push the parties to the CPA to a confrontation between the SAF and the SPLA. These, he said that such parties may have stakes behind such attempts and that these may also be under Jewish influence.

He said that secession is a better option than a return to war.

Parties to discuss Abyei in a special session tomorrow

(*AlKhartoum*) The Governor and Deputy Governor of Blue Nile State sit today to discuss two separate reports on the recent meeting between the NCP and the SPLM.

The meeting between the parties that was held yesterday discussed the issue of Abyei that awaits a special session tomorrow to collect more information on the maps and the formation of the interim authority for Abyei.

GoNU

Speaker of the National Assembly threatens to move a motion of no-confidence on SPLM ministers

(*Alltibaba; AlSudani*) An MP on an SPLM ticket has accused the Speaker of the National Assembly of blocking the SPLM request that the justice minister be summoned to answer queries.

The MP pointed out that the Speaker had earlier asked him to withdraw the request to summon the justice minister and had even threatened that the NCP majority at the National Assembly may move a vote of no-confidence should the SPLM insist that the justice minister answer queries before parliament.

The MP said he refused to back down.

Sudan aids CIA's spy efforts in Iraq

(*Los Angeles Times*) Sudan has secretly worked with the CIA to spy on the insurgency in Iraq, an example of how the U.S. has continued to cooperate with the Sudanese regime even while condemning its suspected role in the killing of tens of thousands of civilians in Darfur.

President Bush has denounced the killings in Sudan's western region as genocide and has imposed sanctions on the government in Khartoum. But some critics say the administration has soft-pedaled the sanctions to preserve its extensive intelligence collaboration with Sudan.

The relationship underscores the complex realities of the post-Sept. 11 world, in which the United States has relied heavily on intelligence and military cooperation from countries, including Sudan and Uzbekistan, that are considered pariah states for their records on human rights. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan aids CIA's spy efforts in Iraq](#)*].

New draft law on press and publications

(*AlSahafa*) The parliamentary committee on information and communications has approved a new bill on press and publications.

The bill is expected to be subject to extensive deliberations before formally being tabled before parliament.

On the other hand, the National Constitution Review Commission will complete drafting the elections act next week, says *AlAyaam*.

Sources say that the draft will pass through the Council of Ministers in August and then seek the parliamentary nod ahead of the forthcoming general elections next year.

Consultations between committee of Unification of National Rank and GOSS on Juba meeting

(*SMC – 10 June*) Committee of Unification of National Rank conducted consultations with leaders of SPLM with the aim of coordination between its initiative and SPLM initiative about vision that can be discussed during Juba meeting with non – signatories of Abuja agreement organized by SPLM.

In special statement to *SMC* official spokesperson of the committee of unification the National rank general Osman Abdullah disclosed that his committee will hold during the coming days a meeting in Juba with first vice president and president of GoSS, Salva Kiir Mayardit. He added that the meeting will focus on Juba meeting with Darfur movements and response of SPLM to the proposals of the committee of unifications of the national rank, the meeting will be attended by Edward Lino and the in charge of Darfur file of SPLM, Clement Jenda. Abdalla said that representative of the committee of Unification of the National Rank will meet next week in Cairo with chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party Mohammed Osman el-Mirghani ,the meeting will discuss the same agenda be discussed in Juba meeting. Cairo meeting came as a response to invitation extended by El Mirghani.

Southern Sudan

UN troops deploy near Kony hideout

(*The Monitor Online, Kampala*) The UN peacekeeping mission in DR Congo – MONUC – is establishing a unit near LRA leader Joseph Kony’s base in Garamba. The aim is to “convince the LRA to assemble in Ri-Kwangba” in Southern Sudan as part of the ongoing peace talks between the rebels and the government of Uganda, Defence State Minister Ruth Nankabirwa has said.

“This will also help in protecting the population surrounding Garamba National Park,” Ms Nankabirwa told journalists in Kampala yesterday.

She had recently returned from a regional security meeting in Lubumbashi in DR Congo.

Last month, the UN Security Council decided that MONUC should have the mandate to help the government of the DR Congo establish a stable security environment in the country.

MONUC consists of 17,030 military personnel, 760 military observers, 391 police trainers, and 750 police personnel. The Lubumbashi meeting of the Tripartite Plus security arrangement bringing together Uganda, Rwanda, DR Congo, and Burundi also “called on the rebels to abide by the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement with the Ugandan government”.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was signed at talks in Juba, Southern Sudan, in August 2006. Currently a team of AU military officials is monitoring implementation of the agreement, and the assembling of LRA rebels in Ri-Kwangba, a Sudanese village bordering DR Congo.

Darfur

ICC prosecutor is a junior employee doing cheap work, Sudan

(SudanTribune.com) The Sudanese interior minister lashed out the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo, vowing not hand over any Sudanese citizen.

Interior Minister Zubair Bashir Taha said that Ocampo is nothing but a “junior employee doing cheap work”.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan’s Darfur region in early May.

Taha said that Ocampo should request the arrest of US president George Bush for “torturing prisoners in Guantanamo and for using cluster bombs in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Iraq”. He added that if Ocampo doesn’t do that “then he is forever doomed”.

Sudan’s Justice Minister Ali Al Mardi said that any attempts to arrest Harun and Kushayb through the Interpol amounts to “kidnapping and international piracy”.

The Sudanese presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi reiterated his government’s position of refusing to hand over Haroun and Kushayb. He said that Khartoum’s position on this issue is “not negotiable”.

However Ocampo expressed confidence that the arrest warrants against the two Darfur war crime suspects will be executed after meeting with the Secretary-General of the Arab league Amr Moussa in Cairo earlier this month.

Darfur rebel leader rejects participation in Juba conference

(SudanTribune.com) Abdelwahid al-Nur, the head of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement told Sudan Tribune that he would not participate in Juba conference to reunite the position of the non-signatories rebel groups in Darfur.

Al-Nur further said that SPLM, as a partner in the government of national unity, has to pressurize the National Congress Party to stop the attacks against Darfur civilians and to voice loudly its support for the legitimate rights of Darfur people.

He also regretted that some of the SPLM officials are now “propagating false and fabricated lies of Khartoum.” he further said “it should be a frustrating situation” for the southern Sudan people and the SPLM members to see that their so called representatives in the government of the national unity becoming de facto NCP ministers and ambassadors.

The foreign minister, Lam Akol, who represents the SPLM in the federal government, said division among the rebel groups represented the main obstacle facing the achievement of peace in Darfur. He pointed out that there are 19 armed factions which made it difficult to negotiate with them. On the other hand, the SPLM designated Ambassador John Ukec Lueth, provoked a controversy when he told a press conference last month that Darfur rebels should be considered as “terrorists.”

The Darfur rebel leader considers the SPLM is lured by the game of NCP to divert the attention from their daily crimes in Darfur and focus their discourse on the fragmentation of the rebels as they are the cause of the violence in the region.

He angrily underlined that SLM troops are observing fully the ceasefire agreement signed in 2004, however SLM positions are bombed regularly by the Sudanese army. He also said that Khartoum in spite of the ceasefire tries to surround the positions of the SLM troops and prevents them of food and water.

The rebel leader admitted that there are some people claiming they are breakaway factions but he explained that such “parasites” exist where a liberation movement is. “They are like a plant or animal that lives on or in another plant or animal and gets food from it.”

“They flourish with direct or indirect support of Khartoum, so they can not say they represent the Darfur people, he said”. Also he regretted that there are some people who trading with the suffering of Darfur people.

Al-Nur said that Sudanese or international friends of Darfur people can help by facilitating the holding of a meeting for the ground commanders of his movement and to help them to reconnect the isolated and besieged commanders with the rest of the SLM.

“There are some local commanders who are without contact with the military command of the movement and it is in the interest of peace to help their political and military leadership to reach them.”

Al-Nur, also has renewed his call to the international community to put pressure on Khartoum to stop attack against the civilians in troubled Darfur. He further said any peace talks should first be preceded by the security of issue of the security.

Last week, a splinter faction form Minni Minawi groups rejected the SPLM initiative and stopped contact with after statements by Sudanese envoy to the USA describing the Darfur rebels as “terrorist”.

Chad opens door to possible foreign military force

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) President Idriss Deby appeared on Sunday to tone down Chad’s resistance to deployment of an international military force on its volatile eastern border with Sudan’s Darfur region.

Chad has previously favored deploying only international police to its eastern region, where Chadian government forces have been fighting rebels and aid agencies are helping hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and local refugees living in camps.

After meeting new French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, Deby was asked by journalists about the possibility of U.N. blue helmets or European Union troops being deployed, and replied: "Why not?"

He said proposals for a force for eastern Chad would be made public by June 25, the date on which France has called a meeting of foreign ministers from several countries to discuss Darfur. [Follow the link to the full text [Chad opens door to possible foreign military force](#)].

France's FM in Sudan for Darfur talks

(AFP via SudanTribune.com) French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner arrived in Khartoum on Sunday ahead of talks with President Omar al-Beshir on the crisis in war-torn Darfur.

On Monday Kouchner will also meet his Sudanese counterpart Lam Akol, and will "urge Sudan to accept the deployment of a hybrid (peacekeeping) force" in Darfur, a French diplomatic source said.

Kouchner is on the final stop of an African tour that has also taken him to Sudan's western neighbour Chad and to Mali, where he attended the investiture of new president Amadou Toumani Toure.

Other Developments

Sudan Dar oil terminal open, exports 200,000 bpd

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) Sudan's exports of Dar Blend crude are running at full throttle of 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) after opening a new export terminal, Sudan Energy and Mining Minister Awad Ahmed al-Jaz told Reuters on Sunday.

"The new terminal is up and running, and exports are at 200,000 barrels per day (bpd)," he said. He also repeated that total Sudan production was running at 500,000 bpd.

He said that Sudan expected to sell its share of the Dar Blend production via tenders held every three months. Swiss-based oil trader Vitol won an initial contract in 2005 to market the acidic grade, which trades at a large discount to Brent.

Jaz said that talks over building a new refinery with Malaysia's state oil firm Petronas were progressing.

When the deal was first agreed almost two years ago, the plant was planned at 100,000 bpd with a price tag of \$1 billion. Jaz said that the plant would now cost more amid industry-wide cost inflation, but could not give a figure.

Dar Blend exports have been constrained since production began over a year ago as they have been diverted to Sudan's older terminal, which already ships about 300,000 bpd of Nile Blend.

Campus violence in Upper Nile University

(Khartoum Monitor) Student supporters of the NCP and supporters of the National Alliance grouping in Upper Nile University yesterday engaged in violent clashes resulting in minor injuries on both sides.

NCP students used iron bars and set fire to campus property. Sources say the clashes were ignited by an administrative decree issued by the Vice-Chancellor last week dissolving the Students' Union.