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Main News

JIUs deployment in Abyei begins (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) UN said JIUs deployment began yesterday. Deputy spokesperson Zerrouk Kouider told Al-Rai Al-Aam yesterday that JIUs deployment would be completed today adding that UN provided all JIUs deployment needs to the two parties and denied any logistical or administrative obstacles hindering the deployment.

Mr. Zerrouk has urged the parties to the conflict to expedite implementation of the roadmap to assist the return of IDPs to their areas.

UN/Agencies

WHO, International Agencies to restore health services in Abyei

(Sudan Vision) WHO with other key UN agencies had paid the first high-level international visit to Abyei since last weekend's peace accord in the central west Sudan. The mission is to plan for the reconstruction of health facilities and other vital infrastructure in the town as well as for the return of thousands of people displaced by more than five weeks of insecurity.

According to WHO, the visit by the senior officials of Key UN agencies in Sudan focused on the voluntary return of displaced people to Abyei and reconstruction, including its health facilities. Critical needs include medical devices, supplies and staff to rehabilitate health facilities.

WHO also sent medical supplies last week that can treat 2000 people for three months.

These medicines and medical devices supplement a similar amount provided earlier. WHO has already distributed supplies to 8000 people.

UNICEF: 8000 child soldiers fighting in Darfur

(Al-Sahafa) UNICEF Representative Ted Chaiban said an estimated 8000 children were child soldiers with forces and armed groups in Darfur.

Chaiban made the statement on the occasion of the African Child Day.

U.S. envoy slams UN peacekeepers over south Sudan

(Reuters) UNITED NATIONS, June 17 (Reuters) - The U.S. special envoy for Sudan accused U.N. peacekeepers on Tuesday of failing to protect residents of a disputed oil-rich town in southern Sudan during clashes last month.

The violence in Sudan's Abyei region straddling the border of northern and semi-autonomous southern Sudan killed dozens and forced some 50,000 people from their homes.

Speaking at an informal meeting of the U.N. Security Council, U.S. special envoy for Sudan Richard Williamson made it clear that he felt the United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had not lived up to its responsibilities.

"We pay a billion dollars a year for UNMIS and they didn't leave their garrison while 52,000 lives were shattered and nearly a hundred people perished," Williamson told council diplomats and representatives from activist groups.

"The devastation was complete," he said about Abyei. "Meanwhile U.N. peacekeepers and UNMIS staff in their garrison were as close as 25 feet (7.6 metres) away. Sudanese homes were burned to the ground and looting took place, despite the fact that UNMIS has a mission ... to intervene to protect innocent people."

He also reiterated his view that the United Nations has been too slow in deploying troops to Sudan's western Darfur region, where international experts believe 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been made homeless by five years of conflict.

Williamson repeated the U.S. description of Darfur as "genocide in slow motion." Khartoum rejects this view and says 10,000 people have died in Darfur.

Khartoum, which has the right to approve which countries' troops get deployed in Darfur, insists on most of the troops being from African countries. This is one of the reasons only 9,000 out of a planned 26,000 U.N.-African Union peacekeepers (UNAMID) are on the ground in Darfur.

Among the activists who came to the meeting to voice their concerns about the situation in Darfur was U.S. actress Mia Farrow, head of Dream for Darfur.

In the written text of her comments to the council, Farrow accused the Security Council of doing too little to pressure the government of Sudan to allow the people of Darfur to get help.

"How long will you continue to allow the government of Sudan to manipulate this body?" she asked. "Did Adolf Hitler get to choose which troops should be deployed to end his genocide?" (Editing by Eric Walsh)

US special envoy to Sudan expresses frustration with UN Secretariat

(ST) June 17, 2008 (NEW YORK) – The US special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson voiced disappointment at the UN secretariat for failing to move quickly on the deployment of peacekeepers to Darfur.

"We find it very disheartening that six months after the transfer from the African Union (AU) to the hybrid UN-AU force that 6,900 African Union troops have been re-hatted. There has only been an addition of 585 new UN peacekeepers" Williamson told reporters at the UN headquarters today.

“The United States and others are engaged in training and equipping African peacekeepers to get to the ground. But we need more forward leaning by the UN secretariat to assist us” he added.

Washington has grown increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of deploying peacekeepers to Darfur and recently appeared to throw the blame on the UN for the delay.

The United Nations has for months been seeking six attack and 18 transport helicopters to support the force. But Williamson told UN chief last March that the UN should not be hung on the issue of helicopters needed by the Darfur force.

“The US has committed \$100 million. We are training and equipping African troops in Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania; enough to double the size this year. But as we sit here the UN doesn’t have the capacity to accept them” the US envoy said.

“Even though the budget for UNAMID this calendar year that ends in June is \$1.27 billion, less than \$300 million has been spent....We must do a better job of spending the existing allocated resources so more troops can get on the ground” he added in a frustrated tone.

Williamson also said that the Sudanese government must allow genetically modified products to enter the country so it can be used to feed the Darfur refugees.

DARFUR ACTIVISTS BLAME CHINA

Darfur activists who blamed the UNSC and particularly China for protecting the Sudanese government from sanctions joined the US envoy.

“Not imposing consequences for such destruction and obstruction emboldens Khartoum to continue to undermine the security of Sudan and the surrounding region, and encourages other rogue regimes globally to defy the Council’s will” John Prendergast, a former Clinton administration official and Co-Chair of the ENOUGH Project told reporters.

“Since the war erupted in Darfur the Security Council has passed 9 resolutions and issued 19 presidential statements. However not one of these resolutions or statements have been imposed....the time has come to impose consequences” he said.

Prendergast warned Sudan’s closest ally that its economic interests in Sudan may be at risk unless they pressure Khartoum on resolving conflicts in the South and Darfur.

He said that following the clashes in Abyei, the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) who signed a peace deal in 2005, “are getting increasingly concerned that they are going to have to go back to war to fight for their independence referendum that is promised in 2011”.

"If that happens the very first target that the rebels are going to go after are the Chinese oil installations....they [SPLM] have learnt a lot about how to penetrate and undertake commando operations during these last 20 years."

US actress and Darfur activist Mia Farrow also pointed fingers to China behind the escalating conflict in Darfur.

"I don't think the government of Sudan could have continued in this way for more than five years without the knowledge that it has the support of a giant....and that giant is China" he said.

China has recently appeared to be toughening its tone with the Sudanese government.

Last week the Chinese president Hu Jintao urged the visiting Sudanese Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha to settle Darfur crisis by fulfilling its commitments with regard to the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur and to accelerate the peace process with the rebels.

"Sudan should push forward the peacekeeping mission and political process in a balanced manner, quickly restore political negotiations and strive to ensure the talks achieve substantial progress" Jintao was quoted by state media.

Also earlier this week China endorsed a presidential statement urging Sudan to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Last December Beijing blocked attempts to pass a similar statement.

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[**Trial of Omdurman attackers begin today amid tight security measures \(Al-Rai Al-Aam\)**](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Thirty seven of JEM elements and others who are involved in the attacked on Omdurman will appear before courts today amid tight security measures in Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North. More than 1000 police supported by anti-terror force and NISS will be deployed at prosecution site in the three cities. 11 accused will appear before court in Khartoum, 13 in Omdurman and 13 in Khartoum North.

[**President Bashir reiterates Sudan rejection to ICC**](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) President Bashir had reiterated Sudan rejection to ICC demands for handover of suspects.

President Bashir made the statement in an interview to Al-Jazeera yesterday. He also reaffirmed Sudan commitment to complete the peace process in Darfur.

[**Chad Government says Sudan army attacks frontier garrison, SAF denies \(Reuters/Sudan Vision\)**](#)

(Reuters/Sudan Vision) N'DJAMENA, June 17 (Reuters) - Chad's government accused Sudan's army of attacking a town on their common border on Tuesday after days of raids by rebels whom Chad says are backed by Khartoum.

"The Sudanese army itself went into action this morning, June 17, 2008, attacking the Chadian army garrison at Adre with ground troops supported by helicopters," said a Chad government statement handed to Reuters by Communications Minister Mahamat Hissene.

For its part, SAF has denied any association with the developments presently taking place in Chadian territory following the moves made by the Chadian opposition aimed at ousting the regime of President Deby as Sudanese officials underlined that the present developments in N'djamena constitute an internal affair of concern only to Deby's government and the Chadian opposition.

Official spokesman of the armed forces, Brig. Mohammed Osman Al-Agbash, told Sudan Vision that Chad's accusations that Khartoum is backing the Chadian opposition are not supported by any evidence and that the armed forces have never been involved in such acts. He stressed that whenever faced by such situations, the Chadian government would find it convenient to level accusations at the Sudanese armed forces, pointing out that the Chadian opposition moves started within Chadian territory which clearly reflects the frailty of the regime in N'djamena.

Meanwhile, the Chadian opposition described the stance of the EUFOR forces deployed in eastern Chad as neutral, attributing that stance to the fact that when the Chadian opposition entered the town of Gur Baida in eastern Chad they refrained from attacking humanitarian organizations' personnel and offices.

Al-Amin Al-Dodu Abdullah, Deputy Chairman of the Allied Forces for Democracy and Development (a Chadian opposition faction), disclosed to Sudan Vision that the French Premier has affirmed that his country will not intervene in the current developments, considering that they are an internal Chadian affair. He revealed that the Chadian opposition has launched its campaign at the military and media levels and that it has managed to get across its message with one voice despite the plurality of channels.

Chadian rebels further announced yesterday that they had seized control of another eastern town, Am Zoer, and captured a senior military officer after fresh fighting in their offensive against the capital. On Monday heavy clashes were reported near Biltine, 750 km to the east of N'djamena.

The United States announced Monday that it was moving out non-vital embassy staff from Chad.

MFA: dialogue with America resumes soon

(**Al-Rai Al-Aam**) Foreign Office spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has expected the Abyei roadmap to remove a great deal of misunderstanding with regard to Sudanese-American dialogue.

he said Abyei was the reason for suspension of Sudanese-American dialogue but after the agreement on the roadmap there should be a reaction.

The spokesperson, however, explained that so far there was no step on the part of the American Administration but such step could not be ruled out in the near future.

Umma Party leader: elections may delay due to Darfur

(Al-Ahdath) National Umma Party leader Sadiq Al Mahdi said conflict in Darfur and the slow return of millions displaced by civil war might delay elections supposed to be held by the end of the next year.

He added that problems in drawing the north-south border could also derail the vote.

Sudanese delegation visits France for talks on Chad and Darfur

(ST) June 17, 2008 (KHRTOUM) — A Sudanese delegation will start on Wednesday a three-day visit to France for talks on bilateral relations, Sudan-Chad tension and settlement of Darfur crisis.

Darfur and tension with Chad have gradually affected the warm relations between Paris and Khartoum, suspicion has replaced confidence. Following a rebel attack on the capital last May, Sudan insinuated that France had provided satellite photos to guide rebel convoys from Darfur to Khartoum.

The Sudanese foreign minister Deng Alor flanked by presidential advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail will hold talks with French officials on Darfur and Sudan-Chad relations with French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner on Thursday 19 June and other presidential advisers and officials.

The visit was decided last month, following attack by Justice and Equality Movement against the Sudanese government in Khartoum, to clear confusion over French position on the current tension with Chad and push for reconciliation between the two neighboring countries.

Paris considers political stability in Chad implies settlement of Darfur conflict. French officials, who work closely with UN team in charge of Darfur file, need to know what exactly Khartoum can concede.

Two main rebel groups refuse to take part in Darfur peace negotiations before satisfaction of different preconditions.

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Uganda says LRA rebels fought south Sudan forces

(Reuters) KAMPALA, June 17 (Reuters) - Fugitive rebels from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army have clashed with south Sudanese forces for a second time this month, Uganda's military said on Tuesday.

One guerrilla was killed and three captured on Sunday after LRA fighters raided the small town of Nimule, which lies on a major trade route between northern Uganda and the south Sudanese capital Juba, a Ugandan military spokesman said.

Officials from the southern Sudanese army (SPLA) could not immediately be reached for comment.

"About 30 rebels came to Nimule, abducted two people and looted food. On their way back they had a brief contact with the SPLA," said Captain Chris Magezi, the Ugandan spokesman.

The battle will worry the authorities in Juba and Kampala because it broke out in an area that was once an LRA stronghold but had been relatively quiet since mid-2005 when the rebels moved deep into northeastern Congo's lawless Garamba Forest.

And the incident has pushed tensions in the region still higher after the LRA attacked south Sudanese barracks on the Congo border on June 4, killing 30 people including 14 SPLA troops.

Uganda's two-decade civil war uprooted 2 million people and also destabilised neighbouring parts of oil-producing southern Sudan and mineral-rich eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Sudan's Vice-President Riek Machar chaired two years of peace talks between the rebels and Uganda's government that collapsed in April when the LRA's elusive leader, Joseph Kony, failed to appear on the Congo-Sudan border to sign a final deal.

Kony and two of his deputy commanders are wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Machar has said he is not giving up on the negotiations, and has said preparations by Kampala, Khartoum and Kinshasa for a joint military offensive against the LRA were premature.

Analysts believe such an operation could carry big risks for the forces involved and would be likely to fail.

"More than ever a more constructive response is required," Machar said on Monday. (Writing by Daniel Wallis; Editing by Andrew Cawthorne) (For full Reuters Africa coverage and to have your say on the top issues, visit

Hundreds of former SPLA soldiers protest over salaries delays

(Miraya FM) Hundreds of former Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers protested in Juba on Tuesday for salaries delays.

Speaking to Miraya FM, the protestors said that they have not been paid for over two years since they were redeployed to the police. The protests calm down after the authorities spoke to them to settle their matters peacefully. However, the protestors assured the government that they will go on strikes if their issues have not been solved.

Uganda: UPDF Steps Up Sudan Border Patrols

(New Vision) THE UPDF has stepped up deployment along the Uganda-Sudan border from Kitgum district to the West Nile region. The army says the build-up is intended to block LRA rebels from crossing back to northern Uganda.

This follows reports that the rebels were heading towards northern Uganda from South Sudan. The UPDF northern region spokesperson, Capt. Ronald Kakurungu, on Tuesday said the army was ready to hit the rebels if they attempted to cross into Uganda.

The New Vision on Monday reported that the SPLA clashed with the rebels at Nimule near the border with Uganda. Three rebels were killed and one was captured by the SPLA.

The chief of Defence forces, Gen. Aronda Nyakairima, also said the army was ready to attack the rebels, following the collapse of the Juba peace talks.

Kakurungu appealed to the people to be vigilant and cooperate with the security organs to single out wrong elements.

[Darfur](#)

Minnawi: DPA completely frozen

(Al-Sahafa) SLM's Minawi described on Tuesday the DPA as "completely frozen" since last June.

Speaking at the opening of a conference organized by Darfur Regional Transitional Authority (DRTA), in collaboration with Sudan's Center for Research and Strategic Studies, President Senior Assistant and DRTA Chairperson's representative Dr. Mohamed Suleiman identified three concerns to thaw the chilled agreement.

These concerns, he said, were recognizing the principle of dialogue, providing full support to the SLM to implement the DPA and mobilizing the government, Darfur movements and the community to follow up the implementation of the DPA in accordance with the timetables.

He said his movement was committed to the peace option, calling for the implementation of security arrangements according to the timetables referred to in the agreement.

He urged the NCP to immediately fulfill its peace commitments and politically and materially support the Darfur movements to assist in their transformation into political organizations.

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