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UN rejects US charges about Abyei

UNITED NATIONS, June 18 (**Reuters**) - A U.N. envoy on Wednesday rejected U.S. accusations that U.N. peacekeepers failed to protect a disputed oil-rich town in southern Sudan during deadly clashes last month, saying it was not their job.

Last month's violence in Sudan's Abyei region, which straddles the border between northern and semi-autonomous southern Sudan, killed dozens and forced some 50,000 people from their homes, igniting fears that a new civil war could erupt between the north and south.

"Whenever ... despite our peace keeping efforts, large-scale hostilities break out between the two parties, UNMIS has neither the capacity nor the mandate to militarily intervene or to provide law enforcement functions," U.N. special envoy for Sudan Ashraf Qazi said in a statement. Law enforcement is the government's responsibility, he added.

But Washington has a different view of the mandate of the 10,000-strong U.N. force in Sudan, known as UNMIS, whose job it is to ensure that the two sides are complying with a 2005 peace agreement that ended two decades of civil war.

U.S. special envoy for Sudan Richard Williamson told an informal meeting of the Security Council and activists focusing on Sudan on Tuesday that U.N. peacekeepers had holed up in their barracks while Abyei was attacked last month.

"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," Williamson said.

British Ambassador to the United Nations John Sawers took a similar view when he briefed the 15-nation Security Council on a 10-day council tour of African hot spots, which included a stop in the southern Sudanese capital Juba.

"We came away believing that UNMIS needed to do more to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," Sawers said, referring to the 2005 peace deal.

"Most immediately in Abyei it was shown that UNMIS could do more and that it should interpret its mandate more robustly than it has done so far if it is to contribute to stability and to protect civilians."

Diplomats said the UNMIS unit at Abyei was from Zambia.

Qazi said he was certain that "Williamson's views do not reflect the position of the U.S. government." However, U.S. Deputy U.N. Ambassador Alejandro Wolff made clear that Washington stood behind Williamson, who recently visited Abyei to see the aftermath of the attack for himself.

Some U.N. diplomats have suggested that UNMIS's mandate might need to be revised. But Wolff disagreed, saying the U.S. view was that there was nothing wrong with the mandate. It simply needs to be interpreted "more aggressively," he said. According to the UNMIS Web site (www.unmis.org), U.N. peacekeepers in Sudan are authorized to protect civilians under threat of physical violence "without prejudice to the responsibility of the Sudanese government."

Nick Birnback, spokesperson for the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations, said of the incident: "Together with UNMIS, we will draw lessons and ensure the mission continues to implement all aspects of its mandate."

The peace agreement left open the future status of Abyei, but leaders of northern and southern Sudan have prepared a "road map" to defuse conflict over the region and have decided that they may turn to international arbitration for a final settlement.

Washington says determined to cancel financial pledges to UNMIS

(Al-Intibaha) US announced determination to cancel financial pledges to UNMIS in Southern Sudan. Washington attributed the step to the poor role of the Mission in Abyei issue.

Meanwhile, Sudan Government criticized US determination to cancel the pledges it made to UNMIS in Southern Sudan, describing the step as bankruptcy on the part of Washington, intended to win votes in American presidential elections.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said Richard Williamson was attempting to make Darfur an election issue in US presidential elections. He has also criticized the statement by US actress Mia Farrow.

It is worth mentioning that the US Envoy for Sudan Richard Williamson addressing an informal meeting of the SC has criticized the role of UNMIS peacekeepers in southern Sudan accusing them of failure to protect civilians in Abyei during fighting last month.

UN/Agencies

UN: transportation of SPLA from Juba to Abyei begins

(Ray Al-Shaab) UNMIS Deputy spokesperson Zerrouk Kouider confirmed the start of transportation of SPLA battallion of 320 soldiers from Wau to Abyei, simultaneously with SAF where 300 of its soldiers would be transported from Muglad to Abyei to mark the start of implementation of Abyei roadmap.

Mr. Kouider in his statements to Miraya FM said UN was providing logistical assistance to the two armies to complete deployment.

Security Council urged to support Sudan's 'fragile' north-south peace accord

18 June (DPI) - The head of the Security Council's recent mission to Sudan today urged the 15-member body to press the parties to the 2005 peace accord which ended

the country's long-running north-south civil war to fulfil their commitments, stressing that the landmark deal is vital to ensuring stability throughout the vast African nation. "The Comprehensive Peace Agreement remains fragile, and the Council came away convinced that we have to do all we can to support the parties in implementing it," John Ambassador John Sawers of the United Kingdom told an open meeting of the Council.

Mr. Sawers, who co-led the Sudan leg of the Council's recent five-nation mission to Africa, added that the delegation believes that the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) needed to do more to support the CPA, which he said remains "the bedrock of peace in Sudan."

In particular, he said the Mission could do more – and that it should "interpret its mandate more robustly than it has done so far" – if it is to contribute to stability and protect civilians in the disputed town of Abyei.

While in Sudan, the Council team also discussed with President Omar al-Bashir the situation in Darfur, where the UN and African Union have deployed a joint peacekeeping operation, known as UNAMID, to try to quell the violence and suffering that has plagued the region.

Why did UNMIS fail to protect Abyei

(The Citizen) The Citizen newspaper editor in chief Nhail Bol in his column "Straight Talk" returns to the attack on UNMIS claiming that the most recent statements by US officials now confirm the paper's initial doubts (24 May) about the mission's handling of the Abyei crisis. "There is no doubt that UNMIS forces provided assistance to SAF", he writes, noting that "UN forces in Sudan should think twice before taking sides with SAF". He adds that future relations with the mission "look fragile" since confirmation that UNMIS "allowed SAF forces to use its bases when attacking the SPLA." Moreover, SPLA "should act accordingly if UNMIS allowed its barracks to be used by SAF." Accusing the peacekeepers of failing to protect civilians caught up in the clashes, he asserts that the Zambians were pro-SAF and should therefore be withdrawn from Abyei.

UNMIS organizes journalists' workshop

(SUNA) UNMIS PIO's Special Campaigns Unit organized a workshop on CPA and role of UNMIS for journalists in Sudan.

Chief of UNMIS PIO's Special Campaigns Unit Mr. Jordan Dakamseh said the objective of the journalists training session was to build capacity of Sudanese journalists so that they were able to disseminate the CPA among all society sections. He said the workshop witnessed lengthy discussions in which 30 journalists representing around 22 media and information institutions including SUNA have participated. The journalists have expressed views that would assist in CPA dissemination and promotion of the spirit of peaceful co-existence in the Sudan.

Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, Mr. Salah Mohamed Hamad, Ms Lubna Hussain and Ms Muna Mohamed of UNMIS PIO have taken part, controlling the workshop floor.

The Peace Radio broadcast news of the workshop and conducted interviews with the participating journalists on the significance of CPA dissemination as well as how to make unity attractive and ensure sustainable peace.

[GoNU](#)

Salva Kiir and Taha to meet in Juba tomorrow to resolve differences over electoral law

(**Al-Rai Al-Aam**) The First Vice President Salva Kiir and Vice President Taha will meet tomorrow in Juba to resolve differences over electoral Act so that it can be tabled before the parliament for adoption before the end of its current session next Wednesday.

The Speaker of the National Assembly said the Parliament would be blamed if the Act was not passed.

Trial of 39 accused persons in attack of justice and equality movement on Omdurman begin at three Courts

Khartoum, June 18 (**SUNA**) - Trial of 39 accused persons in the foiled subversive attack of the Justice and Equality Movement on Omdurman city began Wednesday morning at three courts in Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum North amid intensive security measures.

The accused persons are facing charges under the Act for Combating Terrorism for 2001, the Criminal Law and the Arms and Ammunition Act. At the court No. (3) in Khartoum North, head of the prosecution, Babiker Gashi, affirmed that all the constitutional and legal rights for the accused persons are guaranteed, stating that the charges against them were based on the legal confessions, statements of witnesses, the evidence of police dog and the documents detected in documents inside vehicles of the accused persons.

The chief judge of the court (3), Usama Osman, accepted a demand of the defence party, Advocate Adam Salih Balila, to meet with the accused persons, indicating that the Legal Aid Department at the Ministry of Justice would provide advocates for the defendants who did not appoint advocates for themselves in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Act.

The court (3) set next Sunday as a date to hear statements of the investigation party, explaining that the trials on Tuesday and Thursday will be at 01:00 p.m. In the court in Omdurman, head of the prosecution party, Mamoun Mekki Hamid, demanded maximum punishments for the defendants of the Justice and Equality Movement. The prosecution party described in its statement at the opening sitting the Justice and Equality Movement as a terrorist group that has political agenda.

Foreign Minister and Presidential Advisor to visit France today, Alor meeting with Abdul Wahid likely

(Akhbar Al Yom) Foreign Minister Deng Alor and Presidential Assistant Mustafa Osman Ismail will begin today a 2-day visit to France for meeting with French officials.

According to informed sources, France was making efforts to arrange a meeting between Sudanese Foreign Minister and SLM leader Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur.

New Abyei Administration to be named Sunday

(Sudan Vision) Informed sources said they expected the new administration for Abyei region to be announced on the coming Sunday after the concerned parties have completed their consultations with Misseriya and Dinka Ngok, though they declined to disclose the names of persons who will occupy posts in the new administration.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Abyei Development Front, Mohammed Omar Al-Ansari, revealed that the Dinka Ngok have refused to return to Abyei because they reject the roadmap agreed upon by the two parties, indicating that there are presently military gatherings by SPLA in Abyei region. He further stated that the Misseriya have finished their consultations over the new administration for the purpose of creating an environment that is favourable for peaceful co-existence, adding that the Misseriya have also displayed their readiness to cooperate with the persons nominated by SPLM for the new administration.

Al-Ansari ruled out NCP nomination of Zakaria Atem as deputy for the chief administrator since in that case both the chief administrator and his deputy will be from the Dinka tribe, reiterating that the deputy chief administrator will be from the Misseriya in accordance with the arrangements drawn up in the roadmap.

On the other hand, NCP and SPLM yesterday agreed on the deployment of joint forces in Abyei to replace the unit that was present in the region during the recent incidents. He pointed out that the joint unit will be deployed within the coming days for the purpose of repatriating the displaced to Abyei and for maintaining peace and stability in the region.

US concerned about arbitrary arrest of Darfuris in Khartoum

(Juba Post) US is concerned about reports of ethnically-based arrests, detentions, and torture of Darfuris in Khartoum and Omdurman in the wake of the May 10th attacks by the Justice and Equality Movement on Omdurman, according to Sean McCormack, the US Embassy spokesperson in Khartoum on Wednesday.

The US Embassy in Khartoum on Wednesday said in a statement to the press that: “We remain strong in our condemnation of these attacks that undermined efforts to resolve conflicts in Sudan.”

The US Embassy statement requested the GoS to immediately provide the names and locations of all those who have been detained in connection with these attacks.

Individuals should be either charged with a crime or tried through fair and open proceedings, or be released, the Embassy spokesperson said in statement obtained by the Juba Post on Wednesday.

Preparations ongoing to deploy police in Abyei

(Al-Sahafa) The Department of Police has finalized its preparations to dispatch police force to Abyei.

Assistant DG (operations) Lt. Gen. Tariq Osman told the newspaper that the force would be sent within the framework of implementation of roadmap agreement to ensure provision of integrated police services and to assist repatriation and stability of IDPs.

Sudan to press terrorism charges against the ICC prosecutor

June 19, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese justice ministry has filed terrorism charges against the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo, according to press reports.

The daily *Al-Ayaam* newspaper quoted Sudanese officials as saying that the prosecutor of the Justice ministry Salah Al-Deen Abu-Zeid recommended proceeding with a case against Ocampo.

Earlier this month the ICC prosecutor told *Sudan Tribune* that a plane carrying Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, was going to be diverted on his way to Saudi Arabia in December to perform the annual Islamic pilgrimage.

The disclosure of the arrest attempt angered the Sudanese government which described Ocampo as a “terrorist” and demanded that he be removed from office.

This week an ICC official told *Sudan Tribune* that the responsibility for arresting Darfur war crimes suspects lies with the states. “The ICC does not have a police force to execute arrest warrants. We rely on countries to help us on that” the ICC official said on condition of anonymity.

The Sudanese officials told the newspaper that the case against Ocampo is pending but provided no details on specific steps taken.

GoSS

LRA attacks a village in Eastern Equatoria

(Miraya FM) The Spokesperson of the SPLA Maj. Gen. Peter Paryang, has confirmed to Miraya FM that the Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army LRA attacked yesterday evening a village close to Nimule town in Eastern Equatoria State.

He said that the south Sudan security forces repulsed the attack killing one LRA rebel and arresting another.

Meanwhile the Ugandan People's Defense Force, UPDF, announced deployment of their troops along the Ugandan-Sudanese border to block the LRA rebels from crossing back to Uganda.

The LRA launched an attack on the fourth of this month on a military barrack in south Sudan on the border with Congo and killed thirty people half of which were SPLA soldiers.

Darfur

Peacekeeper abducted briefly by militia in Darfur

(ST) July18, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – Once again Darfur peacekeepers today come under terrible attack near the capital of West Darfur state breaking the small trust that Darfur people placed in the hybrid peacekeeping mission.

Armed Arab militiamen abducted briefly a UNAIMD peacekeeper at “approximately 11:44 am, near the UNAMID military base in El Genina - within close proximity to El Genina airport.” The hybrid mission said today.

The assailants stripped of official and personal belongings, and physically assaulted, the statement added.

However the peacekeeper was released following the intervention of a Sudan National Security official.

UNAMID avoided opening fire in response to avoid further aggravating the situation and in consideration of the lives of the civilian population in that area.

The militia moved in a convoy, made up of approximately 1000 men on camel, horseback and in 4wd vehicles.

UNAMID condemned the attack on its peacekeepers requesting that “peacekeepers should not, in any way, be made party to the conflict.”

According the UN, up to 300,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and disease and more than 2.2 million have fled their homes since the Darfur conflict broke out in February 2003. However, Khartoum dismisses the figures saying only 10 thousands were killed.

18 killed and wounded in West Darfur (Al-Intibaha)

(Al-Intibaha) Fighting resumed between Arab nomads and Chad-backed SLA (Khamis Abdulla wing) in west Darfur. Clashes claimed 13 lives and five others wounded.

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