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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations/CPA

South Sudan minister urges UN to respect government mandate

(*ST* – 21st June. **Juba**) A Southern Sudan government minister urged the United Nations to respect the Southern Sudan government's mandate and to deliver donors' aid for education programmes without delay.

While addressing a two-day Education Reconstruction and Development Forum in Juba, The Minister of Education, Science and Technology in the Government of Southern Sudan, Michael Milli Hussein expressed his anger over UN delay in the delivery of donor's aid to the concerned State ministry on the education field.

It seems that there are some funds from the Japanese government sent to schools construction in three states: Eastern Equatoria, Lakes state, Jounple State, but nothing yet has been received from the concerned authorities.

The minister was addressing the ten (10) state ministers of Education in the capital of Southern Sudan Juba on how education policies can be pushed in the period of Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan.

The minister of Education science and technology told the United Nation (UN) that “you must have to respect us now we the people of Southern Sudan government, because we are already the government since CPA was signed last year 2005”

“We are not called rebels any longer” the minister added.

Milli said that we must to be given the highly respect by UN and others partners who are supporting South Sudan in facing problem of Sudan which are unbend.

Education Reconstruction and Development Forum was held in Juba from 16th to 16th June. Since the signing of the CPA in January 2005, it was the first time to reunite all State ministers of education.

Milli Hussein pushed for non-formal education for former SPLA soldiers, school drop-outs and those who have never attended school in order to combat illiteracy, which the minister rated at about 80 percent. He says it is necessary to build more schools and renovate the old ones. He also emphasized the importance of training and recruiting more teachers.

Participants at the forum identified issues of gender equity which need to be addressed, particularly constraints facing girls' education. They also suggested that the Government of Southern Sudan come up with a code of conduct for teachers and education officials.

Nonetheless the government was blamed for delay in the payment of teachers salary.

While the Government of South Sudan has lunched a campaign “let all children go to school” one month ago, teachers were told to stop asking for the school fees from children. But getting money from the school fees remain the principal source for the teacher.

Southern Sudan/SPLM

Uganda government backtracks and agrees to talk peace with LRA

(*AIRai AIAam* – 22nd June. **Juba**) The Uganda government has formally informed the GoSS in Juba that it is willing to enter into talks with the Lord's Resistance Army.

Uganda has dispatched one of its diplomats in its diplomatic mission in here to inform the GoS in Juba of Uganda's willingness to talk with Kony.

Following a meeting in Juba yesterday between GoSS Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar and the consul at the Ugandan mission in Khartoum, the GoSS Vice-President said that President Museveni of Uganda phoned GoSS President Salva Kiir over the initiative by his government.

He said that the Uganda government has confirmed it will be sending in a negotiating team to Juba probably by next week.

South Sudan cabinet takes up 1992 Juba massacre

(*The Citizen* – 22nd June. **Juba**) The South Sudan Council of Ministers sitting yesterday in Juba listened to a petition for redress and compensation for the civilians killed by the Khartoum government in Juba in 1992.

Many of those killed were educated elites.

DPA

Chadian civilians help Sudanese Janjaweed attack countrymen

(*Reuters/ST* – 22nd June. **N'Djamena**) Growing numbers of Chadian civilians are joining raids on their black African countrymen by mounted Arab Janjaweed militia from Sudan's neighbouring Darfur region as violence worsens in eastern Chad, survivors say.

There is a long history of cross-border Janjaweed incursions along the Chad-Sudan border, but observers say in the last three months there has been a marked upsurge in the frequency and violence of attacks, and more involvement of Chadian civilians as an insurgency by Chadian rebels has intensified.

"When the Janjaweed come, there are also Chadians with them," said Hassan Moussa, who helped bury the dead after a Janjaweed massacre in the village of Djawara in mid-April, in which 118 people died.

"The Janjaweed are from Sudan, they don't know where the villages are, or who owns which cattle. So it's the Chadians here — certain ethnic groups — who act as guides and accomplices for the Janjaweed," he said.

Residents have deserted dozens of villages along the Chad-Sudan border and U.N. refugee agency UNHCR estimates 50,000 Chadians have been forced to flee their homes.

Survivors in Djawara said the Sudanese Janjaweed wore military fatigues, while the Chadians were in civilian clothing.

"Every man was armed," said 40-year-old Abdulaye Yaya Abdulaye, one of the few survivors of Djawara.

"The Janjaweed carried Kalashnikovs and M14s. The Chadians also had arms, but carried machetes as well. After people were shot, if they were still alive, they were finished off with machetes," Yaya said.

Local people talk about their countrymen joining an "Arab alliance" although both Arab and some black African tribes from Chad have thrown their lot in with the Janjaweed.

They have attacked villages of other black tribes, mirroring the pattern of three years of Janjaweed raids in Sudan's Darfur.

Apart from stealing cattle and other goods, attacks appear motivated by opposition to Chad President Idriss Deby.

Deby accuses Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of backing Chad's eastern-based rebels, some of whom also appear to have joined in Janjaweed attacks. Al-Bashir denies helping them.

"Well before the attack, the Janjaweed visited us and asked us to join their alliance, to help overthrow President Deby," said another survivor of the Djawara massacre, which coincided with an April 13 Chadian rebel attack on the capital N'Djamena.

"We said 'No, we are just peasants, we cannot meddle in politics.' So they said 'OK, if you don't want to join us, you will see what will happen.' A few weeks later, they came back to kill us," said the survivor, who did not want to be identified.

Humanitarian workers in the region say those kind of threats could have helped persuade some Chadian civilian groups to join the Janjaweed. Others may have been forced to take part, or lured by the promise of a share in the stolen cattle.

Seid Ibrahim Mustafa, Sultan of Dar Sila — a traditional hereditary title — accused Khartoum of exploiting ethnic differences in eastern Chad for political ends.

"It's a political problem," he said. "We've had different ethnic groups living together here for thousands of years. Why has this violence happened so suddenly?"

"I think this Janjaweed problem is just a pretext. The Janjaweed have a relationship with the Chadian rebels. They are working for the Sudanese government; Sudan is trying to destabilise Chad," he added.

SLM-Minnawi may seek US assistance to disarm the Janjaweed

(*AlRai AlAam* – 22nd June. **Khartoum**) Following a meeting in Khartoum yesterday with the Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Khartoum, the spokesperson for the SLM-Minnawi delegation currently in Khartoum said that the meeting focused on the Abuja talks and the pledges made by the international community, notably the US, to assist in a successful implementation of the DPA and to help improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The spokesperson accused the Khartoum government of dragging its feet in the implementation of the DPA and said the SLM has requested the US administration to exert pressure on the Sudan government to disarm the Janjaweed.

He said that the delegation also informed the Charge d'Affaires of their rejection for the recent statement by President Bashir in which he vowed no United Nations force will set foot in Darfur as long as he is in power.

South Darfur launches disarmament exercise today

(*AlSahafa* – 22nd June. **Nyala**) The Governor of South Darfur says an operation to disarm the militias and bandits in his state will be flagged today.

In a meeting in Nyala yesterday with AU Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konaré, Governor el-Haj Atta-el-Mannan said the security situation in the state is improving by the day and that the local state government is capable of bringing the situation back to normal.

He said that the Sudan and the people of Darfur oppose any United Nations [*military*] role for Darfur and only support the AU. He said his government will support the AU in order to avert an intervention by United Nations forces.

The governor further pointed out that popular support for the DPA is increasing daily and that there are ongoing discussions to avail mechanisms for implementation of the agreement and all wish to participate in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Sudan peace talks to resume on July 17

(*ST* – 21st June. **Khartoum**) The Peace talks between the government and eastern Sudan rebel group are due to be resumed on July 17 in Eritrean capital, Asmara, a Sudanese official said Wednesday.

Sudanese presidential advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail informed the press upon his return from Asmara, where he attended the first round of negotiations with the rebel East Front.

Ismail, head of the government delegation, said that the government will study before resumption of the negotiations all the documents related to the negotiations for preparation for the coming round of talks.

He stressed that the governmental delegation was determined to achieve a breakthrough in the next round of peace talks in order to realize peace and stability in the east.

When asked about the possible existence of international observers in the negotiations, Ismail said that "until now we have not seen the necessity of their existence."

However, he did not rule out the participation of international observers in the future, stressing that the participation should be agreed by the two negotiating sides and invited by Eritrean mediators.

"The first round of negotiations was held far away from the direct existence of the observers," Ismail said.

But Radhia Achouri*, the UN spokeswoman in Khartoum disclosed that United Nations was present in the talks as observer on the invitation of the rebel group. She further welcomed the signing of the ceasefire and the declaration of principles between the two parties.

On Monday 19 June, the government and the rebel East Front wrapped up six days of peace talks in Asmara with the signing of a declaration of principles and a ceasefire agreement.

Ismail ruled out any effect of Darfur movements which are in east Sudan on the progress of the negotiations.

** Please also refer to the rejoinder by UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri in "Letter to the AlRai AlAam Editor-in-Chief" (attached separately) on the issue*

Egypt watches closely Eastern Sudan peace talks

(ST – 20th June. Cairo) The Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Aboul Gheit affirmed that Egypt is closely following up for a long period the developments in east Sudan.

Aboul Gheit in a press statement announced his country's welcome to the start of the peace negotiations between the Sudan government and the East Front with the mediation of Eritrea.

He expressed his hope that the two parties will reach an agreement that will meet the Sudanese people aspiration for the peace, stability and prosperity.

The Egyptian Minister said that through signing of Naivasha Peace Agreement between the North and South and also Darfur peace and through the expected peace agreement in east Sudan a new stage can commence in Sudan.

He hoped that comprehensive peace in Sudan will enable the concentration of efforts for development and stability in Sudan.

Aboul Gheit affirmed that Egypt is exerting great efforts to supporting the peace and stability in sister Sudan, adding that Egypt is also making contacts with all parties for the realization this objective.

Preparatory talks between the government and the rebel Eastern Front began in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, on 13 June and concluded on Monday 19 June with the signing of two agreements on ceasefire and on a framework for substantive peace talks to end a simmering civil conflict in east Sudan.