



Highlights

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Main News

- Sudan president challenges world to impose sanctions over Darfur suspects (ST)

UN/Agencies

- UN urges Government to allow UNAMID to use all airports, appreciates Government cooperation with UNAMID and UNMIS (Al-Sahafa/Ray Al-Shaab)
- UN Envoys to brief SC tomorrow on Darfur (Al-Sudani)
- UN calls for Government protection of WFP convoys, says Darfur faces food crisis (Sudan Vision/ST)

GoNU

- Lawyers walk out of court session of Omdurman attackers (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Darfur peace partner arrives in Chad amid defection reports (ST)
- Minnawi: I will return to Khartoum within days (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Preparations ongoing to resume dialogue between US and GoS (Al-Sudani)

GoSS

- Museveni and Kiir agree to give Uganda peace process another chance – envoy (ST)
- Sudan should treat rebels as prisoners of war – Pagan (ST)
- Uganda rebel Kony breaks silence, wants more talks (Reuters)

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Main News

Sudan president challenges world to impose sanctions over Darfur suspects

(ST) June 22, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has vowed not to hand over any suspects accused of war crimes in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“I swear to God, I swear to God, I swear to God we will not hand over any Sudanese to the International Court” Al-Bashir told a gathering of semi-governmental Popular Defense Forces (PDF) in Khartoum yesterday who were celebrating the defeat of the Darfur Justice and Equality Movement attack on the Sudanese capital last month.

“We will not hand over any Sudanese as long as we have water in our eyes. Adopt how many resolutions you want and impose as many sanctions as you want, threats and sanctions do not scare us” he said.

Last week the UN Security Council (UNSC) and European Union (EU) issued formal statements voicing support for the work of court in Darfur. The EU threatened sanctions against individuals obstructing cooperation with the ICC.

[UN/Agencies](#)

UN urges Government to allow UNAMID to use all airports, appreciates Government cooperation with UNAMID and UNMIS

(Al-Sahafa/Ray Al-Shaab) The visit USG Susana Malcorra met yesterday with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Aor. Discussions focused on peacekeepers in Darfur and UN efforts to make the peace process a success.

Ms Malcorra has urged Sudan Government to allow UNAMID to use all airports, provide protection to relief convoys and boost the Mission’s operational capacity. She has described her consultations as fruitful.

Ms Malcorra has appreciated Sudan Government cooperation with UNAMID and UNMIS particularly on logistics.

UN Envoys to brief SC tomorrow on Darfur

(Al-Sudani) The UN-AU Special Envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim will brief the SC tomorrow on their efforts to achieve peace in Darfur.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Halim said their report would focus on the peace process and the ongoing efforts to bring non-DPA signatories on board.

With regard to the appointment of a new mediator for Darfur the Ambassador said consultations were continuing to appoint a competent negotiator acceptable to the parties to achieve progress in Darfur dossier.

UN calls for Government protection of WFP convoys, says Darfur faces food crisis

(Sudan Vision) The UN Sudan Country Team called on the government to ensure that food convoys with escorts are organized in minimum every forty-eight hours on the main routes into Darfur. Attacks on the UN World Food Programme convoys have seriously delayed the delivery of food aid to Darfur culminating in a cut in the general food ration of more than 40 percent since May. At least 2.7 million people will be affected by a reduction for at least the next two months. The increasing number of vehicle hijackings affecting humanitarian agencies in Darfur- 137 to date in 2008 - is undermining the delivery and quality of life-saving assistance. Eight humanitarian workers have been killed this year.

"Just yesterday there were four attacks on WFP trucks and since the beginning of this year, there have been 81 attacks on WFP food convoys in which 55 trucks and 45 drivers are still missing, while two drivers were killed," said WFP Sudan Representative Kenro Oshidari in a press conference organized by UN agencies yesterday. He added that WFP has enough food stocks in Port Sudan, Khartoum and El Obeid to ensure to a large degree the food security of the Darfur population but there is need for security in the roads to deliver the commodities.

WHO Representative in *Sudan Dr.* Mohamed Abdur Rab, said that the health situation at present is stable but needs close monitoring as the rainy season approaches. He pointed that the decrease in food rations will increase the vulnerability of the population especially children.

On the other hand, statement by the main UN agencies in Sudan, OCHA, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, WHO called on all armed groups operating in Darfur who bear responsibility for attacks on humanitarian convoys and personnel to immediately cease the hijacking of vehicles and assets and demonstrate full respect for International Humanitarian Law and principles.

The UN agency statement pointed that water and sanitation services are already overstretched. The impact of diseases such as diarrhea and acute respiratory infections in the forthcoming rainy season will be more severe if people are weakened by a shortage of food.

In order to monitor, assess and alleviate the impact of these factors, it is essential that humanitarian workers have safe access to all communities. Such monitoring can only succeed if aid agencies are able to undertake and release the results of surveys and assessments in a timely manner and without restrictions but UNICEF Ted Chaiban and OCHA Ameera Hag informed the media that at the high level committee of Sudan and the UN have agreed yesterday to release all surveys and assessments that are compatible with the Ministry of Health criteria.

GoNU

Lawyers walk out of court session of Omdurman attackers (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The anti-terrorism courts trying Omdurman attackers continue their sittings to prosecute 36 JEM elements accused of involvement in the assault.

In the Khartoum Court all lawyers have walked out of the session in protest at the formation of the courts under Section Sixth which allows a court to go ahead with sessions without advocates.

Investigator Col. (police) Ahmed Abdul Latif said Governments of Libya and Chad had supported JEM attack on Omdurman.

Darfur peace partner arrives in Chad amid defection reports

Minnawi: I will return to Khartoum within days

(ST/Al-Rai Al-Aam) Sudan's senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi arrived in Ndjameña after a week-long disappearance that led to speculation that he defected from the government of national unity.

A source speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone from Ndjameña on condition of anonymity said that he met with Minnawi who has expressed anger "in a very harsh language" at the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) for not implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

"Minnawi said he managed to slip into Chad despite refusal by Khartoum to let him visit," the source said.

However, Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted the general Secretariat of Darfur Transitional Authority headed by Minnawi that he is in Darfur and did not visit Chad.

Minnawi has gone missing for 45 days but it was believed he was in Darfur.

Sudan broke off diplomatic relations with Chad Last month, blaming its neighbor for a foiled rebel attack by Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) against the Sudanese capital.

Minnawi was supposed to travel to Ndjameña last January but had to cancel it after Chadian rebels staged an attack against the capital to oust President Idriss Deby.

Exactly two years ago, the Sudanese government has signed the DPA with the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) faction led by Minnawi who was appointed as the senior assistant of the Sudanese president in August of the same year.

However, Minnawi's faction persistently accused the NCP of ignoring the implementation of the DPA.

The source said Minnawi declined to confirm whether he defected or what his next step is, but that he felt that "he [Minnawi] is there to stay"

Earlier today, Sudan Tribune contacted a number of Minnawi's aides who were unable to confirm his whereabouts. Some said that he was in Abu-Gamar in North Darfur.

However, Al-Rai Al-Aam Newspaper had a telephone contact with Minni Minnawi yesterday to the effect that he was presently in the area of Kamo near Karnoi after wrapping up a visit to IDPs camps in the extreme north of Darfur. He said he did not visit Chad and he would return to Khartoum shortly to resume his work and warned of attempts to foment a crisis between him and the Government.

Preparations ongoing to resume dialogue between US and GoS

(Al-Sudani) Sources said preparations were continuing to resume dialogue between Khartoum and Washington adding a high-level delegation is due in Khartoum today for the purpose.

GoSS

Museveni and Kiir agree to give Uganda peace process another chance – envoy

(ST) June 22, 2008 (JUBA) — President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and President Salva Kiir Mayardit of the Government of Southern Sudan have agreed to give the Uganda peace process another chance after the LRA leadership failed to sign the Final Peace Agreement in April, the UN envoy announced on Saturday.

UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas and former President of Mozambique, Joachim Chissano, revealed this in an exclusive interview over the BBC a day after he briefed the United Nations Security Council in New York on the status of the peace process between the Ugandan government and the LRA.

In his briefing to the Security Council on Friday, Chissano said he explained that the formal peace negotiations between the two parties were over since March this year and that a final draft of the Final Peace Agreement was initialed by the two parties, pending signatures by both President Yoweri Museveni and Chairman Joseph Kony of LRA.

He appealed to those who have influence on Joseph Kony to convince him to sign the Final Peace Agreement without any further delay.

Chissano, however, pointed out that if Kony wanted some clarifications on certain provisions of the agreements signed he should be accorded such clarifications, but added that this would not amount to renegotiations of the protocols already signed by the two parties during the two years of negotiations in Juba.

Joseph Kony failed to show up to sign his part of the Final Peace Agreement scheduled for April 10, citing International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments on him for charges of war crimes as an obstacle to peace. He demanded that the arrest

warrants be dropped, preferring to stand trial in a Uganda court and/or applying Acholi traditional justice mechanisms.

UN Envoy Chissano said "the Council was ready to consider any decision taken by the government of Uganda" to suspend the indictment of the LRA's Joseph Kony by the International Criminal Court, and put Kony on trial in Uganda instead.

In an attempt to woo him back to the peace process, the Government of Southern Sudan's Vice President and Chief Mediator of the Uganda peace talks, Dr Riek Machar has reportedly written to the Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony.

In the letter, Dr. Machar appeals to Kony to open direct communication channels with him to cut down bureaucracy and sign the Final Peace Agreement soon, an official working at the negotiations secretariat in Juba, Southern Sudan, who did not want to be named told Daily Monitor on Friday.

"Dr Machar has written a letter to Kony putting some proposals to him to help the stalled peace process," the official at the secretariat said.

He said Dr Machar told Kony that an African Union observer team would be deployed at Ri-kwangba, on the Sudan-Democratic Republic of Congo border, once the rebels from his Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) agree to assemble at the designated area.

The deployment of observers is to allay LRA fears that the Ugandan People's Defense Forces may attack them once at Ri-kwangba.

Dr Machar said in the letter to Kony that the Ugandan government has agreed to begin implementing non-contentious issues that the two parties had agreed upon, notably the resettlement of internally displaced persons back to their homes.

The 22 years of war in northern Uganda is rated to be among the most brutal and long running civil wars in Africa. It has displaced nearly two million people and caused the death of tens of thousands in the region.

The LRA claims that it fights for the rights of the marginalized people of the northeastern part of the country.

Sudan should treat rebels as prisoners of war - Pagan

(ST) June 22, 2008 (KHARTUM) — The Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said government has to treat as prisoners of war (POWs), people arrested after the attack carried by the Justice and Equality Movement on the capital on May 10.

Pagan Amum, who is also the cabinet affairs minister, said JEM rebels who participated in Omdurman attack should be treated as POWs. He added that the government accordingly has to implement the international law on prisoners of war.

The SPLM Secretary General further asked that their future have to be tied to the end of war in Darfur and the resolution of conflict.

Sudan formed special courts to try rebels arrested after JEM attack. Prosecutors accused the defendants of conspiring against the constitution, waging war against the state and terrorizing civilians. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Sudanese Justice Minister also announced that he will ask Interpol to arrest 20 Darfur rebel leaders accused of involvement in the foiled attack on the capital.

Pagan said that the SPLM during the war had always treated the captured soldiers as POWs who are released following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

He underlined that these people have a political difference in the first place.

Since the foiled coup, right groups published reports about arbitrary detention of people from Darfur in Khartoum State, cruel treatment and torture.

Uganda rebel Kony breaks silence, wants more talks

KAMPALA (**Reuters**) - Uganda's fugitive rebel Joseph Kony has broken months of silence to call for the resumption of peace talks that collapsed in April and prompted three nations to threaten a joint attack on his forces.

Kony, who is wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, made the rare comments in a phone call broadcast late on Sunday by Radio France International.

"I want the peace talks to be resumed in Juba. I want to go back to (the) table again ... I don't want to fight again because talk can end everything," he said.

"There is going to be peace through negotiations and my message to the people of Uganda is that ... I am the one who started the peace talks, so I am not going to refuse anything. I am going to struggle to make sure that this war is solved."

South Sudan hosted two years of talks in its capital Juba between the Ugandan government and representatives of Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

But the negotiations broke down in April after Kony failed to appear on the Congo-Sudan border to sign a final peace deal.

Earlier this month, the rebels attacked south Sudanese forces in the area, killing 30 people including 14 soldiers.

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

South Sudan's Vice-President Riek Machar, who chaired the Juba talks, has said he is not giving up on the negotiations. He has also warned that preparations by Kampala, Khartoum and Kinshasa for a joint offensive against the LRA were premature.

Kony, who is believed to be camped in northeastern Congo's lawless Garamba Forest, said he was ready to meet Machar again.

"I am going to talk to him. He is our mediator," Kony said.

"I am going to meet with him in Ri-Kwangba (on the Sudan-DRC border) to end everything."

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