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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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- Zerihoun concludes a two-day visit to Darfur (Sudan Tribune)
- UN children agency, ex-Darfur rebel group sign pact to demobilize child soldiers

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- Triki announces the convening of an international conference on Darfur next month
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- Minister of State for labour calls for dissolving Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (Alkhartoum)

- Opposition leader casts doubt over Sudan's elections date (*sudantribune.com*)
- Recent clashes in Nuba Mountains result in loss of human and cattle lives (*The Citizen*)
- Aweil community celebrates defection of NCP member to SPLM (*sudantribune.com*)

Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

UN Chief to attend meeting on Sudan in Paris

The Citizen-- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is scheduled to attend the upcoming international meeting on Sudan in Paris, UN Spokesperson Michele Montas announced Friday.

Visit of IOM DG Brunson McKinley to Klaimendo cancelled

The Citizen--The visit of the International Organization for Migration Director General Brunson McKinley to north and south Darfur failed to materialize for security reasons. McKinley was to visit Klaimendo village which was built by Klaimendo Organization for Development. The village is well equipped with all basic necessities of life, constructed as a model village that could be replicated throughout Sudan. Commander Abdullah Mohamadeen of SLM Minawi faction, said he has personal conflict with Commissioner of Klaimendo and declared to journalists the proposed visit will never take place.

Zerihoun concludes a two-day visit to Darfur

Sudan Tribune—Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General Taye Brook-Zerihoun concluded today a two-day visit to the capitals of the three Darfur States, Nyala, El Geneina and EL Fasher. During the visit, ASRSG Zerihoun met with UN staff to brief them on the recent agreement on the deployment of a hybrid operation in Darfur as well as the need to streamline existing UNMIS activities in Darfur and the coordination of UN support to AMIS in preparation for the hybrid operation.

The ASRSG also met with the local Government officials of the three Darfur States and discussed with them the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur and recent developments regarding the political process, UN support to AMIS in the context of the Light and Heavy Support Packages as well as the agreement on the hybrid operation.

The ASRSG also met with AMIS senior officials and discussed with them the AU-UN partnership in reviving the Darfur political process and implementing the UN Support Packages and the hybrid operation.

UN children agency, ex-Darfur rebel group sign pact to demobilize child soldiers

Excerpt from report in English by Sudanese newspaper Juba Post on 22 June

Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] leader, Mani [Arkoi] Minawi, has reached an agreement with UNICEF this month to identify locations of child soldiers within his faction group in one month's time to ensure that they are demobilized.

According to Swangin Bismarck, communication officer of UNICEF in Southern Sudan, UNICEF in collaboration with the government and other international agencies will support the provision of family tracing and community reintegration programmes, with training of SLM/A field commanders on international child rights and protection standards, inclusive of permanent cessation of hostilities.

The SLM/A has indicated that it has already identified a number of children attached to its forces in South and North Darfur and that a formal process of identifying all children associated with its armed groups would start within the next month. "The demobilized children will benefit from life skills and vocational training opportunities, education support, psycho social activities such as recreational, sports and career guidance," reports Swangin Bismarck.

This action plan agreement commits the SLM section of Minawi to the population of about 1,800 children in the SLM, and the conventional term used for them is Children Associated with the Armed forces or Children Associated with the Sudan Liberation Army. This term is used because not all the children are child soldiers. Some did not get the opportunities to be trained but rather used as cooks, and preparing beds for commanders. Bismarck said they are working for the relief of these children. "UNICEF strongly believes that in Darfur alone there are 7,000 children associated with armed forces with other different forces which have not yet signed agreement with Sudan government.

"Because by 11 June not all parties had committed themselves to an agreement with UNICEF, So the 1,800 were the once that they projected within the SLM but estimates within the other factions that they have not reached an agreement were around 7,000 more children". He added "and UNICEF will be exploring the opportunity of entering an agreement with all other remaining armed groups so that they can enter in to an agreement". [Passage omitted]

The UN Support Package to the AMIS and related issues

African Peace and Security Council approves hybrid operation

Alwan-- The African Peace and Security Council will approve in its meeting tomorrow (Sunday) the agreement on the hybrid operation in Darfur. According to SUNA the meeting would discuss the details of the tripartite agreement which was reached by the UN, AU and GoS. After endorsing the agreement the AU will inform the UN Security Council.

AU extends mandate of Darfur mission

Saturday 23 June 2007.

Sudantribune.com-- June 22, 2007 (ADDIS ABABA) — The African Union extended the mandate for its Darfur peacekeeping mission until the end of the year on Friday and said it hoped efforts to deploy a hybrid AU/United Nations force would be speeded up.

The AU's Peace and Security Council also called for financial and logistical support for its AMIS operation in the troubled Sudanese region, where its African troops have not been paid for three months at a time.

"The council decided to extend the mandate of AMIS for an additional period not exceeding six months until Dec 31, 2007 in the expectation that efforts will be expedited for early deployment of the hybrid operation," the AU said in a statement.

The AU also urged member states to contribute troops to the hybrid force to ensure the "predominately African character" of the operation.

(Reuters)

CPA

85% of SAF withdrawn from South Sudan, 54374 of OAGs joined SAF and SPLA, 2122 others demobilized

AlSahafa-- The Committee on Other Armed Groups (OAGs) announced that 54,374 of the personnel of the OAGs have been ingretaed in SAF and SPLA and that 2,122 others have been demobilized. Maj Gen Siddig Amir, SAF representative in the Committee, said 85% of SAF personnel who were in south Sudan have been redeployed north of 1956 north-south border.

Parliamentary workshop warns of danger of proliferation of weapons among people

AlSahafa-- Security experts have warned of the danger of the proliferation of light and small arms among the people of Sudan, especially Khartoum. According to these experts this issue represents one of the main security threats in the country. The workshop discussed the security challenges in Sudan.

Joint Defence Board to discuss redeployment on Tuesday

The SAF-SPLA Joint Defence Council will meet on Tuesday this week to discuss implementation of the security arrangements and redeployment of SAF north of 1956 border and SPLA south of same border.

Alyas Waya says JIUs did not receive salaries for three months

Al-Ayam-- The member of the technical committee of the Joint Defence Board, Maj Gen Alyas Waya, said the funds allocated for JIUs running costs was not received from the Government. From the five-month budget proposal which they submitted, they receive funds enough for only two months.

CPA partners close to agreement on pending issues including Abyei

AlWihda-- The NCP Deputy President Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie and the SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said in a joint press statement at the NCP headquarters yesterday they have reached an agreement on the oilfield which has been endorsed the Petroleum Commission. They explained that they are about to reach an agreement on Abyei-related issues by which they would overcome the complexities resulting from the ABC report.

1490 dangerous landmine fields in Sudan, Head of Demining Commission casts doubt on seriousness of foreign organizations and companies

AlSudani--The Commissioner of the Southern Sudan Demining Commission, Jorkoj Baraj Jorkoj, raised doubts in regard to the seriousness of the foreign organizations and companies working in the field of removing landmines in Sudan. He said, in a statement to AlSudani, "these organizations lack the commitment which characterizes the work of the national cadres which have recently received training in this field. He said the national cadres have been able to clear Babanousa-Wau road (more than 400 kms) in a very short time. This achievement has caught the foreign organizations by a surprise. The national cadres, he added, have cleared 8,360,622 square meters. THE Commissioner said that there are 1,490 dangerous landmine fields in Sudan (in Greater Equatoria, Greater Bahr al Ghazal, Greater Upper Nile, Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, Kassala and the Red Sea). He said there are 993-2,390 landmine victims. The landmine most affected areas are Mile 40 (from Juba), Jabalein at Numule road, Jolo at Torit road, Bo Bridge Rakn, Kurmuk in Blue Nile and Hamoushkoreib in Kassala. The Commissioner anticipated that, if work goes well, the demining will be completed by year 2021.

Sudanese NGO says number of child soldiers unknown

BBC Monitoring-- Text of report in English by Sudanese newspaper Juba Post on 22 June

The number of child soldiers among the armed forces in Juba remains unverified compared to the other states who give their information about child soldiers.

The recruitment of child soldiers into the armed forces in Southern Sudan is tricky. There is no available data to confirm or to deny allegations of their presence, reported Ayen Aleu, Manager, Right to Play.

According to Ayen, there is no clear guide policy for the ex-child soldiers after their demobilization in the government, NGOs and community in Juba. "We need to double our effort to solve ex-child soldier by establishing many programs and projects that may make them integrated fully to the communities," Aleu stressed. She assured that the biggest thing to be considered is what next after demobilization, otherwise the children will go back to military if there are no programs that might keep them busy. "We need to make a lot of awareness in our families to consider child rights, this will motivate the children to feel that they are fully integrated to the communities," appealed Aleu.

According to Aleu, Right To Play organization has three models, one is Red Boy Child Play model which deals with holistic child development, Live Safe Play Safe model which deals with making awareness about HIV/AIDS and other things and the third model is Coach to Coach

models that deal with the physical development of the child. She added that soon the organization is going to train 25 teachers to help facilitated these three models.

GoNU

Prosecutor bans media reporting on Kajabar events

AlSudani-- The Prosecutor for Press and Publications has yesterday instructed the media not report on the Kajabar Dam events in which four people were killed and ten others injured.

Bashir promises to solve the issue of those who were fired from public service on political grounds

AlRai AlAaam-- President Bashir, who addressed yesterday a public gathering at the NCP, said that the issue of all those have been fired from the public service on political grounds will be addressed in a just manner.

Southern Sudan

Kiir holds talks with UN official

Khartoum Monitor-- United Nations official Emmanuel Antonio held talks with the President of the GoSS Salva Kiir Mayardit on the issue of refugees and their repatriation, as well as participation in the census that is to be carried out in South Sudan.

Kenya to train South Sudan prison officers

BBC Monitoring Service, Friday 22 June 2007-- June 21, 2007 (NAIROBI) — Kenya and southern Sudan on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), through which the former will train prisons officers of southern Sudan to provide services to the vast region. Kenyan Vice President Moody Awori and Minister for Internal Affairs for southern Sudan, Justice Paul Mayom Akec, signed the document in a ceremony in Nairobi. The agreement will be operational for the next three years, within which the two countries will also undertake a prison personnel exchange program. Speaking during the ceremony, Awori reaffirmed Kenya's commitment towards providing the much-needed supports in building up human resources in southern Sudan. He noted that the training will enable the officers to acquire the necessary competencies for the reconstruction of the prison system in southern Sudan. Awori noted that the MOU was a culmination of tireless efforts arising from a series of meetings and consultations by representatives from the two sides and the UN mission in Sudan. He said forty Sudanese officers and liaison officers have already accepted training in Kenya. Justice Akec thanked the Kenya government for helping stabilize his country through technical assistance and cooperation in training and capacity building. The minister assured that Kenyans were welcome to invest and do businesses in southern Sudan. Akec said his government was impressed by Kenya's prison

facilities, adding that Kenya has also been instrumental in southern Sudan's reconstruction process by training its human resources and in the provision of goods and services to the region. Southern Sudan, which currently has 65 prisons, is trying to rehabilitate prison systems which were ruined by more than two decades of civil war.

(Xinhua)

Sudan: Civil society organizations end Juba conference with declaration

BBC Monitoring Service-- Excerpt from report by Sudanese radio on 23 June

[Presenter] Sudanese civil society organizations conference ended its sessions yesterday in Juba and issued Juba Declaration which hailed efforts of the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA]. [Correspondent] The conference was held between Thursday and Friday [21 and 22 June]. It included civil society organizations from all parts of Sudan. Participants discussed a number of topics, most importantly, freedoms, good governance, reconstruction and a lasting peace, as well as social services, which focused on the necessity of spreading education, care for human health, especially in rural areas. At the end the conference issued Juba Declaration which stressed the importance of making unity attractive as provided for by the clauses of the CPA. [Passage omitted]. At the time, the declaration urged for speeding up the implementation of the remaining clauses of the agreement, and removing hindrances in the whole performance.

Nuba mountains and South Kordofan communities send memo to Salva Kiir criticizing SPLM

Al-Intibahah-- The SPLM followers from the Nuba Mountains and Southern Kordofan submitted a memo criticizing the SPLM, especially Yasir Arman for marginalizing the role of the Nuba SPLM members. In the memo the called for amending the CPA protocol on Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains.

Darfur

Paris conference expected to focus on Darfur peace process – Egypt

Sudantribune.com-- Sunday 24 June 2007-- June 23, 2007 (CAIRO) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit Saturday expressed hope that an upcoming meeting on Darfur issue to be held in Paris on Monday would achieve an overall peace agreement, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported. Sudan's unconditional approval of the deployment of a hybrid UN-AU (African Union) peacekeeping force in western Sudanese region of Darfur brought new chances to give priority to the political process, Aboul Gheit was quoted as saying. The Egyptian top diplomat is expecting that the Paris meeting would lead to a candid discussion to achieve international and regional agreement on means to solve the Darfur crisis.

(Xinhua)

Sudanese president meets Chinese envoy for Darfur

Sunday 24 June 2007.

June 23, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir held talks in the Presidential Palace on Saturday with visiting Special Representative of the Chinese Government Liu Guijin in which they exchanged views on the bilateral relations between the two countries, the Darfur issue as well as other problems. At the beginning of the meeting, President al-Bashir termed his visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao in Sudan early this year as "a new milestone in the development history of the Sudanese-Chinese relations of friendship".

Al-Bashir noted that the Chinese government had been exerting enormous efforts and continuously playing a constructive role for helping resolve the Darfur issue, adding that the appointment of a special representative for Darfur proved again the concern of the Chinese government over the issue. Expressing the willingness of the Sudanese government to facilitate the Chinese envoy's work, al-Bashir said that the Darfur region and the residents there had benefitted from the humanitarian assistances provided by the Chinese government, hoping that the Chinese side would offer more helps for the region.

On his part, the Chinese envoy thanked the high assessment of the Chinese-Sudanese relations by President al-Bashir, and explained the consistent positions of the Chinese government over the Darfur issue. Referring to the international general welcome of the recent announcement of the Sudanese government to accept the hybrid peacekeeping operation in Darfur, Liu expressed his government's appreciation for the efforts exerted actively by the Sudanese side and the other parties concerned to resolve the Darfur issue.

(Xinhua)

SLM Peace wing second Commander killed in Nyala

AlHayat—The Second Commander of the SLM Madibo Peace Wing, Bakheet Abdulrahman, have been killed yesterday in Nyala by unidentified armed group.

Minawi fighters capture vehicle

Khartoum Monitor-- Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) fighters in Sag Alnaam, northern Darfur, on Tuesday seized a pickup ferrying a delegation from Southern Darfur that was going to attend the opening of a village in Klaimendo area which was built recently.

Darfur rebels accuse Khartoum of attacking their troops

AlSahafa—The Darfur rebels have accused the Government army of attacking their troops near the Sudanese-Chadia borders. They said three civilians have been abducted. The AU troops have also been attacked by unidentified armed group.

Chinese envoy arrives in Sudan for Darfur talks

Sudantribune.com, Saturday 23 June 2007-- June 22, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — China will send more than 200 troops to Sudan's Darfur region to help a joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force, its special envoy said in Khartoum on Friday.

"The government is planning to send 275 multipurpose, multifunction engineering troops to support the second phase of the Annan plan, the heavy support package," Liu Guijin told

reporters in Khartoum, where he will meet President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Karti on Saturday.

(Reuters)

France to host meeting for contact group on Darfur

Sudantribune.com, Saturday 23 June 2007-- June 22, 2007 (PARIS) — A ministerial meeting of the enlarged international contact group on Darfur will take place in Paris Monday June 25 with a view to accelerating the resolution of the Darfur crisis, French foreign ministry announced today.

In a press briefing the spokesperson of the foreign ministry said that the participants in the meeting will review the prospects for the revival of the political process, humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, reconstruction and development of areas affected by the crisis and regional repercussions.

The aim of the meeting is to rally and unify the international community around the efforts of the African Union and United Nations in Darfur and the entire region, according to the ministry. The meeting is bringing together major donors, regional organizations from Africa and the Arab world as well as the European Union, UN Security Council and G8 in order to arrive at an "international consensus" on future actions.

According to the French ministry of foreign affairs, countries that will participate in the meeting are : USA, Netherlands, Canada, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, UK, Belgium, Egypt, China, Spain, Russia, Japan and Germany as current president of the European Union. The ministry said the parties involved directly in the conflict, such as Sudanese government, Darfur rebel groups or Chad are not invited in this meeting.

While the meeting is attended by the UN secretary general, the Arab league secretary general, and the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the African Union declined the invitation to participate in Paris meeting on Darfur.

"The African Union said its policy is not to participate in the meetings of contact groups." The spokesperson said.

Major donors also will attend the meeting like the president of the African Development Bank and the World Bank director for African.

However, he considered as positive step the Sudan's acceptance of a joint AU/UN peacekeeping force in Darfur. "We wish to boost this acceptance by showing the readiness of the international community to support the deployment of this hybrid force," he added.

(ST)

Peace process is cardinal to end Darfur suffering - AU

Sudantribune.com-- Saturday 23 June 2007-- June 22, 2007 (ADDIS ABABA) — Alleviating the ongoing humanitarian suffering in Sudan's Darfur region requires a comprehensive peace approach on three tracks, namely, political process, ceasefire and the peacekeeping plan, said the African Union (AU) on Friday.

In the absence of an inclusive political process, a peacekeeping operation couldn't assist in realizing security in Darfur, said AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Omar Konare in a report to the 79th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council.

At the same time, he said a political solution will not be sustainable if the parties do not have confidence that a strong, impartial and proactive peacekeeping force is being deployed. The conflict in Darfur with devastating security implications and humanitarian consequences is essentially a political problem, which can only be resolved through a political process, he said. Sudan has accepted a proposed UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping force for Darfur.
(Xinhua)

Adada arrives to Khartoum early this week, Eliasson to arrive beginning of July,

It is anticipated that the AU-UN joint envoy will arrive in Khartoum next week in order to assess the situation in Darfur. Meanwhile, Sudan Ambassador to the UN expected the UNSG Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson to visit Sudan end of this month.

Kadafi offers to buy CHADIAN REBELS weapons

AlRai AlAam-- Kadafi has called on the Chadian opposition elements to put down arms and engage in dialogue for political participation and development in Chad. He offered to buy the weapons of the Chadian opposition.

Triki announces the convening of an international conference on Darfur next month

AlHayat-- The Libyan Secretary for African Unity announced that an international conference on Darfur will be organized next in an effort to find a solution for the problems of the region.

SLM leader calls for unity of the rebel movement

Sudantribune.com, Friday 22 June 2007-- June 21, 2007 (LONDON) — The leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) has launched an appeal for the unity of the movement. He called on the dissident factions to rejoin the main stream of the movement. He further said all the current divergences should be resolved to end the suffering of Darfur people.

Abdelwahid Al-Nur, the leader of the rebel SLM has called upon all SLM factions to reunite and refocus their struggle on pursuing the achievement of Darfurians' fundamental claims.

Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune that the unity of movement can only be achieved within the institutions of the SLM and through dialogue among its members on the internal issues. He further said "let us forget our divergences otherwise it will hamper the achievement of its objectives."

(ST)

Other Developments:

Minister of State for Labour calls for dissolving the Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF)

AlKhartoum-- The SPLM Federal Minister of State for Labour, Dr. Mohamed Yusif Ahmed al Mustasfa criticized the SWTUF and called for dissolving it the ground that it does not represent the Sudanese workers.

Opposition leader casts doubt over Sudan's elections date

Sunday 24 June 2007.

June 23, 2007 (KHARTOUM) ---The opposition Umma National Party led by Sadiq al-Mahadi has said it is impossible for the government of national unity to hold the general elections due to the repatriation of southerners and Darfur crisis.

While addressing a packed political rally in Gadarif town, in eastern Sudan last Thursday, Al-Mahadi asserted that it was impossible to hold the elections on the agreed time as stipulated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005.

He attributed this to the facts that the majority of southern Sudanese are still living outside the southern region and that two third of the residents of Darfur had either become internally displaced or vagrants, in addition to the non-existence of security and stability and the emergence of what he termed as the rebellion of provinces.

According to the CPA, presidential and legislative elections should be organized in the country in 2008, the two major members of the national unity government agreed to adjourn it to 2009 due to the delay of general census.

the census, planned for November this year, but continuing logistical and political complications may lead to further delays.

Al-Mahadi also considered the statements regarding the hybrid operation in Darfur and its African leadership as mere deception, asserting that the leadership would be for the UN.

He said that the AU was part of the UN and not the other way around.

He further reiterated his party's supportive stance for these troops. He said that his party did not decide to agree on these troops out of nothing or affection to them but because the AU troops had declared their failure to continue with operation.

(ST)

Aweil community celebrates defection of NCP member to SPLM

Sunday 24 June 2007.

June 23, 2007 (JUBA) — Aweil community in Juba has celebrated the defection of two-hundred and sixteen members of the National Congress Party (NCP) to the SPLM party in Northern Bhar El-Ghazal State on 30 May.

The Aweil community in Juba, which is affiliated to the SPLM party organized a welcoming ceremony to this group on 17 June, at Nile Comfort Hotel, in Juba.

The former Minister of Finance, Government of Southern Sudan, Arthur Akwein, stated during the ceremony that their defection from NCP party to SPLM is a great achievement for SPLM and a loss to NCP. He says the welcoming ceremony was organized at community level and it is up to the SPLM as a party to organize their own ceremony in honour of the large number of the defectors.

However, Ayaga Garang Deng Nyang, one of the intellectuals of the Aweil community, says Dhieu Mathok, (who heads the defecting group) and his group joining SPLM, are welcomed into the Aweil community but not SPLM until they proved themselves genuine members of the party.

In response, Dhieu stated that their Joining of the party is completely genuine and already accepted by the SPLM leadership under Salva Kiir Mayardit.

The Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga, told the Aweil community that SPLM is the only political party that all the southerners and other marginalized groups in Sudan have hope in.

"But we can only bring changes if we the southerners are united, and forget of our political differences," says Wani Igga. He further says that he is very happy with the decision taken by greater Aweil community to organize such a gathering to welcome the defecting NCP members.

(Juba Post)

Recent clashes in Nuba mountains result in loss of human and cattle lives

The Citizen—Tribal conflicts between Dar Neila, an Arab tribe, and Dabri, a Nuba tribe, have grown worse recently, after a rumour spread among people in South Kordofan that the South Kordofan Deputy Governor issued a decree in which he asked Dar Neila tribe to evacuate the land of Dabri tribe