

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Acting SRSG holds talks with GoSS leader

(Sudan Tribune) The *Sudan Tribune* daily carries coverage of talks in Juba on 16 March between GoSS President, VP of the Republic Kiir and GoSS VP Riek Machar on the one hand and UNMIS ACTING SRSG Taye-Brook Zerihoun.

The paper says that the ASRSG briefed the GoSS leadership on UNMIS' restructuring plans in southern Sudan and Darfur.

GoSS President Kiir welcomed the ASRSG's visit to Juba and agreed to hold regular high-level meeting between the GoSS and UNMIS to discuss priorities in CPA implementation.

UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs arrives in Khartoum tomorrow

(AlAyaam) The UN Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs is expected in Khartoum tomorrow for a one-week visit during which he will hold talks with government officials and visit Darfur and southern Sudan.

The head of the Peace and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate at Sudan's foreign ministry, Ambassador Siraj-el-deen Hamid, said that USG John Holmes visit is his first since taking over from Jan Egeland.

He said that the UN official will hold talks with a number of senior government officials including VP Salva Kiir, foreign minister Lam Akol, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and with GoSS V-P Riek Machar with whom he will discuss the issue of the LRA.

On the UNHRC report

Abdelwahid al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement welcomed a UN rights Council report condemning the violation of human rights committed against civilians in Darfur but dismissed the charges levied against the rebel movements, reports the *SudanTribune.com..*

He reminded that his group was the first to appeal the intervention of the UN and the NGOs on the ground to assist the affected population in the region. 'How we can appeal world to provide humanitarian aid and we attack those feeding our people, he said.

The rebel leader said that the SLM is however ready to respond positively to any requests for information in this regard and to collaborate with the international community to arrest perpetrators of crimes in areas they control [*click on the link for the full text of this story* [SLM leader denies UN rights charges against Darfur rebels](#)]

AlIntibaha daily reports that the UNHRC report on Darfur is still causing ripples in Geneva with discussions focussing on the legitimacy of the report compiled by the team led by Judy Williams.

The paper goes on to point out that Nigeria, Gabon, Ghana, Zambia and Senegal have deviated from the general position of African states in opposition to the report and have voiced their backing of the report on Darfur.

AlHayat daily meanwhile reports that 1984 Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu has accused the UN and its Human Rights Council of double standards in dealing with states.

He pointed out that the rights council now seeks to draw a condemnation of Sudan on the grounds it denied visas to the rights team while the council did not do anything when Israel denied visas to a fact-finding team he led seven years ago.

He said that the Sudan has cooperated enough with the international community on the issue of Darfur and that the council should receive cooperation from all member states of the UN, including Israel, should it wish to be strong, respected and influential with member states.

Other Headlines:

The editorial of *Sudan Vision* today reads *Using Humanitarian Work for Personal Ends*. The article is attached separately alongside another in the same paper which is critical of former UN USG for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland.

The Transition Debate

On the UN support packages to the African Union

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says Sudan must accept a strong international peacekeeping force in its war-torn Darfur region. Ban made the comment in an exclusive VOA interview [[click on the link for the full text from the SudanTribune.com Sudan must accept Darfur peacekeepers - UN chief](#)].

Ban told VOA he is consulting with many African leaders to pressure Sudan to live up to an agreement reached with the United Nations and the African Union last November in Addis Ababa. He pointed to growing international frustration at the lack of progress in halting the violence in Darfur, and said he will push the issue further when he meets Arab leaders at a summit later this month in Saudi Arabia.

In the meantime, Ban says he is also moving ahead with preparations for the deployment of a military force.

"I have also proposed the nomination of the joint representative and the force commander," said UN secretary-general. "We have laid out all preparations so we will be able to contribute to the resolution of the Darfur issue."

But the Permanent Representative of China at the Security Council said his country opposes any plans to impose sanctions on Khartoum following its rejection of UN-AU hybrid force.

Guangya told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York that Sudan is a sovereign state and is therefore entitled to have reservations on the hybrid force proposal as it is outlined in the Addis Ababa communiqué in November of last year [*read the full text of this story from SudanTribune.com from the following link [China voices opposition to sanctions on Sudan](#)*].

AlHayat daily reports that the joint mechanism of the UN, the African Union and the GoNU will be holding its third meeting next Wednesday in Khartoum to follow up on implementation of the Light Support Package.

SUNA has learnt that 55% of the LSP has so far been carried out with 48 out of 105 military advisors, 32 out of 33 police advisors and 23 out of 48 civilian advisors already on the ground.

Quoting *AlKhartoum* daily of 17 March, *BBC Monitoring* reports that state minister for foreign affairs Ali Karti revealed details of a letter sent by President Bashir to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and reaffirmed government's categorical rejection to UN troops to Darfur with the mandate determined by the Security Council.

He further said there is no middle-ground in the issue of the International Criminal Court [ICC] and that he considered the only possible middle ground is to fight the ICC and to succeed in not handing over any Sudanese citizens for trial by the court.

AlAyaam also reports that state minister Karti told the press in Cairo where he arrived yesterday for a meeting with the Arab League that the Sudan seeks to muster Arab support against international pressures over Darfur.

He said Sudan believes that talk of the deployment of an international force to Darfur is more of a political nature than a bid to protect the civilian population in the region.

CPA

Jebel Auliya IDP departure centre opens

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The IDP departure centre in Jebel Auliya County was opened yesterday with UN, GoNU, GoSS and NGO officials in attendance.

In an exclusive interview with the GoSS Officer of Relief, Rehabilitation and IDPs return coordination, Mr. Kormac Chuol, said at the opening ceremony that Southern Kordofan IDPs will be the first to be served from the new departure camp.

Governor expresses concern over spread of arms in S. Kordofan State

The Governor of S. Kordofan has expressed concerns over the spread of arms in his area of jurisdiction and says that security will only be restored through expediting implementation of the Security Arrangements, reports *Allintibaha*.

The governor who was speaking at a press conference in Khartoum yesterday also announced that 5 armed groups in South Kordofan have opted to join the SPLA, adds *Rai AlShaab* daily.

Governor Ismail Jalab, said the PDF and Shahamah troops in Aldibab area joined the SPLA.

GoNU

Taha to address second donors' conference today

(*Sudan Tribune/SUNA*) Vice-President Taha addresses at the Friendship Hall today the inaugural session of the 2nd Donors' Conference for Sudan.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar will also address the session.

A meeting of participants to the conference with GoSS representatives is set to take place in Juba on 21 March and will focus on financing the rehabilitation of southern Sudanese states.

Authorities uncover explosives in Bank of Sudan

(*AlHayat et al*) Authorities arrested yesterday a man alleged to be a member of "a militia group" who came into the central bank in Khartoum with a grenade inside a briefcase.

A bank official got suspicious over the briefcase and informed security officers who then arrested the client.

On interrogation, the man described the grenade as a "personal weapon" with which he had intended no harm and that he was in the bank only to avail of its forex services.

Relatives of Hassan Bargo plead for his release

(*Rai AlShaab*) Relatives of jailed National Congress Party member Hassan Bargo have pleaded to security authorities for his release.

Hassan Bargo was the head of the party's West and Central Africa desk, head of the Darfur Organisations Network and was lead figure in attempts at "twinning" between N'Djamena and Khartoum.

A relative pleaded that he be released or brought before trial and asked authorities to grant them permission to visit him.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Aggar tipped to replace Arman in SPLM's northern leadership

(Alwatan) Sources within the SPLM have strongly tipped investment minister Malik Aggar to succeed Yassir Arman who has stepped down as the head of the SPLM's Northern Sector.

Aggar is also strongly tipped for the governorship in Blue Nile State as the SPLM is soon to take over the position from the National Congress Party as per the peace agreement.

Deputy Chief of Staff, SPLA, warns militias against obstruction of the disarmament operations

(Khartoum Monitor) The SPLA Deputy Chief of Staff has warned militias not yet integrated into the SAF or the SPLA against obstructing disarmament operations.

He warned that the law will be enforced against any quarters that seek to obstruct the operations.

GoSS finance minister to face probe

(AlRai AlAam) The GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs says a probe has been launched into the procurement of GoSS vehicles during the pre-Interim Period.

GoSS minister Luka Biong pointed out that the lifting of immunity from GoSS finance minister Arthur Akuein had nothing to do with the controversy surrounding the \$60 million but is rather a step ahead of the probe into the vehicle procurement.

He pointed out that the finance minister will be free to resume work once the probe results acquit him.

Reactions to the ICC Summons

Sudan says will suspend cooperation with ICC

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan has decided to suspend all cooperation with the International Criminal Court in response to its accusations that Sudanese officials were involved in war crimes in Darfur, the justice minister and a pro-government newspaper said Sunday.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir chaired a meeting of Cabinet ministers and high-ranking judicial officials that decided to cancel cooperation with the court, the Al-Ray Al-Aam daily newspaper, deemed close to government circles, reported Sunday.

The presidential meeting turned down a suggestion from some government officials to send a delegation to The Hague to contest the case with the ICC, the paper said.

Click on the link below for the full text of the above
[Sudan says will suspend cooperation with ICC](#)