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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Taha to head Sudan delegation to Oslo as Kiir apologizes due to tragic accident (Sudan Vision)

The First Vice President of the Republic First Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit has stated that he would not be able to lead Sudan's delegation to the donors conference to be held in Oslo on the sixth and seventh of the current month due to the tragic plane crash that killed a number of SPLA officers.

Foreign Minister and SPLM leader Deng Alor explained that Kiir had excused himself from heading the delegation to Oslo to be able to receive condolences and attend the burial ceremonies of the deceased SPLA Affairs Minister, Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim, and Dr. Justin who died in the crash. He pointed out that Lt. Gen. Kiir had delegated Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha to lead the delegation to Oslo. He further noted that a number of SPLM ministers would accompany Taha to Oslo and that the Government of the Southern Sudan has prepared a package of major projects to be submitted at the conference.

On the other hand, Alor said the crash will not give rise to acts of violence or insecurity in the South because the accident occurred due to failure of one of the plane's engines. He said that after alerting the watchtower to a technical fault in one of the engines, the pilot was unable to land and the plane consequently crashed.

He revealed that all the bodies of the plane's passengers were located and conveyed to Rumbek, adding that the remains will be buried after finalization of some technical procedures, though the place of burial has not yet been decided, he said.

Alor pointed out that the vacuum left by Dominic and Justin would be filled during the SPLM general convention to take place as per schedule on the 10th of the current May. SPLM Chairman, he added, can also fill the vacuum by a decision under the consideration that their posts are executive ones.

For his part, Minister of State for Animal Resources, Khamis Jallab, reiterated that the

accident would render SPLM more determined to go ahead with CPA implementation, underlining that the SPLM general convention will in no way be impacted by the crash which was nevertheless a grievous loss for SPLA.

Meanwhile, an informed SPLA military source told Sudan Vision that the posts of the deceased officials would be filled by nomination.

SPLA had organized a burial ceremony for the victims of the crash which was attended by leaders of political parties and civil society organizations in addition to ambassadors accredited to Khartoum.

The National Congress gave its condolences to the leader of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and President of the Government of South Sudan, Gen. Salva Kiir, and his deputy and Vice - President of the Government of South Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar, and the families of the victims, who worked honestly for realizing peace and development in the country.

Seven persons killed and wounded in Dafra oil field, nine Egyptians abducted in Abu Jabra

(Al-Intibahad) Armed group calling itself “Kordofan Liberation Front” abducted yesterday nine Egyptian nationals working with oil exploration companies, declaring they would only be freed if Government agreed to reintegrate them into SAF and address marginalization and development issues in the region. Four of the Egyptian were abducted from Abu Jabra and five from Higlig areas.

Sources said the group led by Musa Rahoma had earlier been contacted by Governor of Southern Kordofan Government for talks.

meanwhile, about seven persons working with an oil company in southern Kordofan were killed and wounded when they were shot at by unidentified gunmen in two separate incidents in southeast Dafra oilfield and another area located in north of Meiram.

Commissioner of Abyei Country Mohamed Doraik has instructed the security committee to take action to end insecurity in the area.

UN/Agencies

UN-AU peacekeepers aid Darfur villagers attacked by Sudanese forces

(UN News Centre) 3 May 2008 – The United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping operation has evacuated North Darfur villagers wounded in recent attacks by Sudanese forces that have left three dead and at least eight injured.

The joint operation – known as UNAMID – said it carried out successfully airlifted wounded civilians, “following SAF [Sudanese forces] air attacks on the village of Umm Sidir in North Darfur” on Thursday, according to a statement issued yesterday in El Fasher, capital of North Darfur and the mission's headquarters.

A UNAMID medical team flew to Umm Sidir to provide initial medical care to the victims of the attack – which left two men dead and eight seriously injured. In El Hashim and Heles, one woman was killed, while property and live-stock were destroyed.

UNAMID forces later flew the wounded, ranging in age from 17 to 40, to El Fasher where they were admitted to hospital. “One man, who has suffered severe head injuries from shrapnel, is said to be in a critical condition, another is awaiting surgery,” the mission said. The other men are in a stable condition.

The evacuation was conducted at the request of humanitarian organizations and in coordination with Sudanese authorities.

Initial reports suggest that the area, which is controlled by the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), “has witnessed repeated aerial attacks and possible fighting between government and rebel forces during the course of the last few days.”

Condemning attacks against civilians, UNAMID urged all parties to the Darfur conflict – which have claimed more than 200,000 lives and displaced nearly 2.5 million others since 2003 – to adhere to international humanitarian laws, which prohibit military attacks against civilians.

A UNAMID fact-finding mission is currently conducting an investigation on the ground, while the peacekeeping forces continue to monitor the situation, the mission noted.

UN Security Council to tour Africa in June

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council will tour Africa early next month to try to better understand and address some of the continent's crises, including Darfur and Somalia, British Ambassador John Sawers said on Friday.

Sawers, the current council president, and South African Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo will lead the mission, which will leave New York on May 31 and spend the first 10 days of June in Africa.

The party, grouping representatives of the 15 nations on the council, will visit Kenya, where it will consider the Somali problem, Sudan -- including the semi-independent south and the violence-torn western region of Darfur -- Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ivory Coast, Sawers said.

The United Nations has peacekeeping missions in all those countries except Kenya and is contemplating whether to boost the UN presence in Somalia, where the Ethiopian-backed government is struggling against Islamist insurgents.

Asked at a news conference whether the group would visit Somalia itself, Sawers said, "The plan at the moment is not to go to Somalia." But he added: "We're going to

the borders of Somalia and we will determine exactly what our itinerary is nearer the time, based on security conditions."

In Chad, the United Nations is deploying police to accompany a European Union peacekeeping force in the east, where some half a million Sudanese refugees and displaced Chadians are encamped.

[GoNU](#)

Foreign Minister: The atmosphere is now conducive for dialogue with America, Sudanese-American dialogue resumes on May 20 (Ray Al Shaab/Al-Sahafa)

Sudan Government and US Administration agreed to resume dialogue for normalizing relations on 20 May in Khartoum. US Envoy Richard Williamson will lead US delegation for the dialogue.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor said the atmosphere was now conducive to resume dialogue with America.

US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez said relations between his country and Sudan were passing through an interim period adding that release of Guantanamo's Sudanese prisoners was part of the ongoing dialogue between the two countries.

Mr. Fernandez has defended his country's policy toward Darfur pointing out that US contributes \$ 1m per year for Darfur and it would contribute effectively at forthcoming donor conference in Oslo.

Directorate of the Foreign Office's Directorate of America Ambassador Abdul Basit Al Sanousi told the newspaper dialogue between the two countries would continue on pending issues including the roadmap agreed upon between the two countries.

Williamson: Relations with Sudan will normalize during my term

(El Sharee El Syasi) US Envoy to the Sudan Richard Williamson said he was not expecting improvement of relations with Sudan during his tenure.

Williamson who was addressing a group of Darfur activists said changes on the ground were imperative for any improvement of relations.

"US does not count on Sudanese Government's promises," said Williamson, reacting to reports that Washington was considering removing Sudan from the terrorist list and lift economic sanctions in return for deployment of Thai and Nepalese troops in Darfur.

345 Zambian soldiers to arrive in Abyei tomorrow

(Al Sudani) a battalion of 345 Zambian soldiers will arrive tomorrow from Zambia to Abyei to strengthen security and stability in the area.

Zambian Army Commander at farewell ceremony for the soldiers urged them to observe discipline to maintain the image of the country. “Regardless of being UN peacekeepers, we are also Zambian Ambassadors,” he told the soldiers.

He said the soldier had undergone training to meet UN standards.

Zambian Defence Minister said his country would continue contributing to peace and stability in Africa and called on the soldiers to respect Sudanese customs and cultures.

FM: Government has no objection to London hosting Darfur negotiations

(Al Sudani) Foreign Minister Deng Alor in press statements yesterday said Sudan Government informed British Prime Minister that it had no objection to London hosting Darfur peace negotiations.

He said the Sudan Government asked British Government to get in contact with the parties to the Darfur issue particularly UN and AU as well as other countries connected with this issue such as Chad and Libya.

Abdul Bagi Al-Gailani: Census in Darfur IDPs camps will be estimated

(Ajras Al Hurriaya) The Census Monitoring and Evaluation Committee decided to resort to projection in Darfur IDPs camps where enumerators failed to access them for counting.

The committee’s Chairperson Abdulbagi Algailani said extension of census duration was a probable option pointing out that the remaining period was quiet sufficient to finalize the process throughout the country.

He explained that the census foreign observers express satisfaction over the progress of the census, attributing the shortage of census questionnaires in Southern Sudan to distribution problems.

Civil Aviation: plane was not cleared to operate in Southern Sudan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Director of Civil Aviation Authority’s Safety and Operations Directorate Mohamed Al Hassan Al Mujamar said the plane that crashed in southern Sudan was operating outside the umbrella of the civil aviation authority, as it was not cleared by the Authority to operate in southern Sudan.

He said the Authority was not involved in the regular check of the aircraft to ensure its safety standards and put the blame on the Southern Sudan Civil Aviation officials for not checking with the Authority with regard to safety standards of the aircraft.

De-mining on Kadugli-Kadwa and Tokar-Garora begins in mid May

(SMC) The National Mine Action Centre is undertaking preparations for start of work for de-mining of Kadugli-Koda road in southern Kordofan, 95 kilometers, and Tokar-Garora road in the Red Sea State. Director of the National Mine Action Centre Col. Al-Awad Al-Bashir announced this, pointing out that the de-mining operations over

the two roads would start mid current May and are expected to be completed before the start of the rainy season. He referred to the importance of the two roads, which contribute to the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees to their areas.

GoSS

Salva Kiir calls on southern Sudanese to remain calm, says the crisis of the plane crash will be overcome

(Al-Khartoum) the First Vice President Salva Kiir has called on citizens in southern Sudan and across the country to remain calm and accept what had happened with courage pointing out that his Government would overcome the crisis with prudence, wisdom and responsibility.

The FVP made the statement while addressing Southern Sudan Legislature, which met to discuss the circumstances that led to the tragic plane crash in southern Sudan.

SPLM leader: Kharasana area is part of Unity State

(Ray Al Shaab) SPLM leader at Unity State Dr. Joseph Myshul said on Saturday that Khurasana was part of the Unity State.

Messeriya tribesmen besieged Khurasana area last week and the siege was lifted after an agreement between the two States was concluded to end the clashes between Misseriya and SPLA.

AEC to visit Abyei in the second week of May

(Al-Intibahad) Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) urged the Presidency and the two CPA Partners to implement Abyei Protocol as it is the only solution to the crisis.

AEC fact-finding mission headed by the chairman will visit Abyei during the second week of May.

According to SPLM the AEC recent meeting focused on Abyei and census and the meeting urged the Presidency and the two Partners to expedite implementation of Abyei Protocol as it is the solve solution to the crisis.

RCA to begin airlifting supplies to South Sudan

(Emirates News Agency) The UAE Red Crescent Authority (RCA) will begin airlifting relief supplies to Southern Sudan next week. Acting on the directives of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the RCA, the charity body will begin airlifting medical equipment, medicines, foodstuff and other items as part of a grand mission to help the displaced person in Southern Sudan. As part of the mission, three aircrafts laden with the relief supplies will leave UAE to Juba, the capital of the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. A delegation of the RCA will accompany the mission along with a medical team which

will attend to chronic medical cases. Special attention will be given to eye diseases which are common in South Sudan.

Commenting on the RCA mission, Dr. Abdullah Al Ka'abi, Chairman of the RCA Board of Directors said the charity body is keen to ameliorate the suffering of those who had been hard hit by war-induced displacements in recent years.

"HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed has attached a great importance to the relief mission in Sudan in general and Darfur and Southern Sudan in particular. Sheikh Hamdan has personally been following this mission very closely and has directed us to do everything within our power to help in the resettlement of the displaced persons", said Dr. Al Ka'abi.

Al Ka'abi revealed that the RCA has lined up a number of relief projects, including development projects aimed at effecting permanent resettlement of the displaced persons. "These projects will constitute a qualitative leap as resettlement of people will be linked to their livelihood", said Dr. Al Ka'abi. He added that health will be given utmost attention because without health there can be no investments in human resources. "Healthcare institutions have been terribly affected by years of civil unrest. That is why we are sending a team of surgeons, especially eye specialists to attend to eye diseases which are widespread in Southern Sudan. These specialists will conduct operations free of charge", he said.

[Darfur](#)

[UN says Sudan attacked Darfur rebel areas](#)

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - The United Nations on Friday said Sudanese government planes had bombarded rebel areas in North Darfur, killing three people and wounding several others.

The U.N. statement was the first independent confirmation of attacks reported earlier this week by rebels but denied by Sudan's army.

The rebels said on Tuesday the bombings showed that Khartoum was not serious about wanting peace in the region.

The U.N. said initial reports indicated the area had suffered "repeated aerial attacks and possible fighting between government and rebel forces during the course of the last few days."

The U.N. said it evacuated eight wounded men after the latest assaults.

A joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission, known as UNAMID, is trying to stem the violence in Darfur but is only about a third of its desired strength of 26,000 troops and police have been deployed and cannot cover many of the remote areas where fighting and bombing continues.

"UNAMID succeeded, today, in organizing an operation to air-lift wounded civilians, following SAF (Sudan army) air attacks on the village of Umm Sidir in North Darfur," the statement said.

"One man, who has suffered severe head injuries from shrapnel, is said to be in a critical condition, another is awaiting surgery. The other men are in a stable condition," it added.

It said the world body was conducting further investigations on the ground. Two men and one woman were killed by the bombings.

Any offensive flying in Darfur is prohibited by a U.N. Security Council resolution, but rebels report bombing almost monthly in Sudan's war-torn west.

Sudan's planes often miss their target and civilians get caught in crossfire. Some rebels also shelter within village communities drawing fire onto civilians.

About two-thirds of Darfur's estimated 6 million population depend on the world's largest aid operation for food, shelter and healthcare.