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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Chad announces closure of border with Sudan

(ST) Chad announced the closure of its eastern border with Sudan after Khartoum broke off diplomatic relations with N'djamena saying it had supported a rebel attack.

Chad regretted on Sunday Sudanese decision to sever diplomatic relations over a Darfur rebel attack on the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

Following a cabinet meeting, the Chadian government said on Monday that this closure comes in order to "to ensure the security of its territory and citizens and protect its economic and cultural interests" and to "guard against all surprises."

Chadian sources said N'djamena expects a rebel attack following the Sudanese public threats against the regime of the President Idriss Deby who had been twice attacked by Khartoum backed rebels.

On April 9 Chad said that Sudan is massing thousands of rebel troops on the joint border to attack its army, adding that Khartoum government intends to destabilise the whole region.

Chadian government further banned Sudanese airlines from flying to Chad and froze economic and cultural links with Sudan.

The latest agreement of a series of reconciliation and non-aggression deals was signed between the two countries in Darkar on March 13. But observers excluded any ameliorations in bilateral as long as Darfur and Chad political crises are not resolved.

Watchdog says concerned by mass arrests after rebel attack

(ST) Human Rights Watch raised concern and fears over mass arrests in Khartoum of perceived supporters of a Darfur rebel group and other political opponents.

The arrests by Sudanese security forces of more than 100 people followed an attack on Sudan's capital by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on May 10, 2008 that left dozens of civilians dead or severely injured.

“The Sudanese government may be systematically rounding up suspected rebel or opposition supporters in Khartoum,” said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “Given Khartoum’s record of abuse, there is grave cause for concern about the fate of those detained.”

Although al-Turabi has been released, the whereabouts of the majority of those arrested are unknown. “Human Rights Watch received unconfirmed reports that some of those arrested have been tortured and that at least two people have been summarily executed in public.”

The watchdog called on the Sudanese government to ensure that those arrested are promptly charged or released, and tried in accordance with international fair trial standards.

Residents in the capital also told Human Rights Watch that at least 60 civilians were killed or injured in clashes between government and JEM forces, following an attack by JEM on Omdurman, a western suburb of Khartoum, in the early afternoon on May 10.

Some 1,000 JEM fighters reached Omdurman on May 10 in a column of 50 to 150 vehicles and entered several districts, including the main market of Souq Libya and residential areas of Umbada, Al-Thoura, and Al-Muhandiseen. Government forces counterattacked with tanks and helicopter gunships. Residents reported that fighting was continuing on May 12 in the markets of Al-Souq Al-Sha’bi in Omdurman and Al-Souq Al-Arabi, Al-G’abat and Al-Huria Street in central Khartoum.

The laws of war do not prohibit military forces from fighting in urban areas, but parties to a conflict are required to take all feasible steps to minimize harm to civilians. Prohibited are attacks that are indiscriminate or that would cause civilian harm disproportionate to the military gain. Belligerents should avoid deploying within or near densely populated areas, and they should seek to remove civilians from the vicinity of military forces.

Human Rights Watch also said alarmed by the possible Sudanese government response to the JEM attacks, which marked the first time that a rebel group has engaged government forces near the capital.

“We fear the Sudanese government will respond as it has in the past, with attacks against civilians in Darfur,” said Gagnon. “Darfur needs the international peacekeeping force to deploy in full as quickly as possible.”

Sudan releases Islamist leader al-Turabi

(ST) Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi has been released today evening after twelve-hour arrest in Kober prison in Khartoum.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune from Khartoum, the leader of the Popular Congress Party Hassan al Turabi said he was held first in the famous Kober prison in Khartoum for several hours.

He further said security officers who interrogated him late in the day asked him “why you didn’t condemn the rebel foiled attack on the capital?”

Turabi, 76 year, didn’t rule out the possibility of being arrested again.

Sudanese presidential adviser Mustaf Osman Ismail early today said, Turabi was arrested because his name was included in the rebel documents and the security organs wanted to interrogate on this issue.

Hower al-Turabi said they did not confronted him with any evidence, after he challenged them to produce it.

Among the arrested PCP officials with al-Turabi are : Bashir Adam Rahmah, Ahmed al-Tahir Abdon, Nagi Dahab, Abubakr Abdel-Raziq, Kamal Omer, Hussein Jubarah, Tageldin Banaga, Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman. The PCP says the total of the detained is 15 leading members.

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[Minister of Defense: Khalil is being chased outside Khartoum and captured rebel elements will receive fair trial \(SUNA\)](#)

(SUNA) The Minister of National Defense, General Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, on Monday said who were arrested and who had been involved in the recent attack on Omdurman will be brought to fair military trial.

Speaking to the Sudan News Agency the Minister of Defense pointed out following a meeting between the President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir and Sayed Sadeq Al Mahdi that interrogation of those arrested has shown fruits and that the new information they gave has shown that some fifth columns elements were in Omdurman and that the document found there have reaffirmed the full Chadian involvement in the operation, saying Chad provided training and weapons.

The Minister has stressed that the Armed Forces are fully in control of the security situation and that there was no elements that could carry out any subversion and that there were only some fugitives.

The Minister of Defense has meanwhile denied that rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim was now in Khartoum and stressed that he was now being followed up in the north western part of North Darfur State.

The Minister pointed out to the huge loss incurred by the rebel force. The Minister commended the heroic stances of the Armed Forces and other forces to repulse the rebel remnants. He said the objectives of the failed operation were to control the national radio, the general command and the republican palace. He pointed to the weak planning and military tactics of the operation that met with total failure.

AL-Mahadi, meets President Albashir , calls on Sudanese political forces to counter using violence

(Ray Alshaab) Former Prime Minister and opposition Umma Party Leader Sadeg Almahdi has emphasized that Sudan was capable by its ideological and political abilities to institutionalize the national consensus which did not exclude any body.

Almahdi, who was speaking to the press following his meeting with President Albashir, said his encounter with Albashir was to congratulate him on the stance of the regular forces in repulsing the attack on the capital.

President Albashir expressed his appreciation of the Umma Party's position as regards the recent incidents, reiterating that the government would provide prompt and fair trials to the accused persons in the sabotage attack.

Almahdi called on the government and other political forces to constitute relations of good neighbourlyhood, which he added, should be based on peaceful-co-existence and non- interference in other affairs.

He appealed to the political forces in the country to reinforce their and unify the political will to counter using violence and dictating solution from any side.

He voiced regret of Chad-supported attack, adding that normalizing relations with Chad should be initiated by calling for regional conference among Sudan's neighboring countries.

Sudan says rebel leader requested helicopter airlift from Chad

(ST) Sudan said this evening that the rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim, has contacted the Chadian authorities asking to send him a helicopter to transport him from western Sudan.

The Sudanese security service said that the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement is heading to the border area with the neighbouring Chad through the northern border of North Kordofan and Darfur states.

In a statement broadcasted by the local media, the security services said that they intercepted a telephone call with the Chadian authorities urging to send a helicopter to transport him from the border area to Chad.

The large dissemination of this communiqué by the state media suggests that the army ignore the whereabouts of Khalil Ibrahim. The security service which offered a reward of 125 million USD, asked the population in the western Sudan states to contact the local authorities if they have any information about him.

However, the rebel leader continued this evening speaking to the media claiming he is still in Omdurman. Khalil Ibrahim told the Arab satellite TV, al-Jazeera that he is in Omdurman where occurred the Saturday attack.

He further said they decided to fight the regime in Khartoum because the government is not serious to achieve peace in Darfur. He further said the "Sudanese government killed 600.000 people in Darfur and they are living at peace in Khartoum."

JEM sources confirmed to Sudan Tribune on conditions of anonymity that Ibrahim is somewhere in western Sudan where he received some provisions and supplied with the necessary fuel to go deep in Darfur to JEM bases.

The rebel sources said Khalil Ibrahim transported with him weapons and ammunition captured during the attack on the army base in Wadi Sayedna, near Omdurman.

"I am not empty handed. I took a lot of things from Khartoum - a lot of vehicles, ammunition and money." Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters on Monday morning.

JEM leader thanked the neutrality of the Sudanese army which "welcomed him."

Reports published in Washington on Sunday said that fighters wearing Sudanese army uniforms were among the rebels. In addition, it said that several Sudanese military officials had been arrested Friday night.

Hassan Turabi, who was detained on Monday morning, said he didn't confirm or deny any thing during his interrogation by the security services. The Islamist leader added that if they have something to ask he is ready to respond only before a judge.

Analysts say the arrest of Khalil Ibrahim would be a real victory for Khartoum and blatant defeat for the rebel movement and vice versa, every one is playing his card in this chase

Dr. Osman Ismail reveals preparation for stabilizing conditions in Darfur

(Sudan Vision) Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail has revealed that the Presidency and the National Congress Party will during the coming period adopt arrangements for triggering a change in real terms for the conditions in Darfur in order to preserve the security and unity of the country.

Following the meeting held yesterday between President Al-Bashir and the Umma National Party leader, El-Sadig El-Mahdi, Ismail said the Foreign Affairs Ministry is launching a diplomatic drive to address a number of ambassadors accredited to Sudan on the country's position after JEM's attack on Omdurman last Saturday.

He stated that President Al-Bashir had at the meeting briefed El-Mahdi on the developments of the rebel aggression on Omdurman, adding that President Al-Bashir had praised the stance of Umma and other national parties.

He affirmed that dialogue between Umma and National Congress parties will continue while joint committees will resume their preparations for the meeting to be held between the two parties on the 20th of the current May.

For his part, the Umma Party leader impressed upon Sudanese political forces the need for boosting unity and the transition to democracy and refraining from exploiting Darfur case for personal ends.

He decried the heinous attack on Omdurman, underlining that there was no need to resort to violence at a time when the country is witnessing a transition towards democracy.

He further described SPLM stance towards the subversive attempt as positive and has stimulated a spirit of national reconciliation. He called for bringing the culprits who perpetrated the attack to account.

Sudan Envoy to UN conducts contacts with senior UN and SC on incidents in Omdurman

(Sudan Vision)The envoy of Sudan to the United Nations, Ambassador Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim, has conducted contacts with the leading figures and advisors of the United Nations and then Ambassador of Britain and current chairman of the Security Council and informed them on the latest developments and events in Sudan, involvement of Chad in the sabotage attempt in Omdurman city and the efforts of the Sudanese government to protect its citizens and homeland.

He said in a press statement to SUNA, Ambassador Abdul-Hatim said that his contacts began since arrival of reports on the events on the aggression, indicating that the Sudanese mission's contacts with the Security Council's members will continue and the concerned parties at the United Nations to convey information on the involvement of Chad of Chad in the aggression and its repeated violation of the several agreements that it has signed with Sudan.

Ambassador Abdul-Halim said that Sudan will deliver an official complaint to the Security Council and its hostile practices that would lead to negative consequences on the situation and the peace process in Sudan.

He said that the support of Chadian government to the Justice and Equality Movement is not something new, referring to the existence of document information in this regard at the hand of the UN Secretary-General.

Meanwhile, Sudan diplomatic mission to New York said that it received various contacts from members of the Sudanese community in the United States and other communities through which they condemned the sabotage attempt and declared their support to Sudan and its people and its leaders.

Police lifts curfew on Omdurman except in limited areas.

(Alwan) The Ministry of Interior has lifted the indefinite curfew re-imposed on Omdurman city two days after Darfur JEM attacked the capital, Alwan reported on Tuesday, quoting Ministry of Interior's statement.

The paper said that was lifted from Omdurman except in the areas of Umbada and Harat, west of the city, adding that security forces were still searching for JEM remnants in these areas.

The interior Ministry's statement confirmed the absence of the city from any pockets of the attackers who could constitute a security threat, announcing the stability of the security situation in Khartoum State.

Ethiopia denies donating part of its territories to Sudan (Alitibaha)

(Alintibaha) Ethiopian Foreign Ministry denied rumors claiming that Ethiopia granted part of its territory to Sudan.

It described the rumors as "baseless and irresponsible", saying that there was no need to respond to those "incorrect information".

The Ministry's statement indicated to the necessity of dealing with issues pertinent to common borders by cautions

The statement noted that it was no doubt that common border situation of any two countries in any part of the world was dealt in accordance with international laws and agreements.

It added that the Ethiopian and Sudanese border issue was settled in 1902 and 1907 with an international agreement made between the then Ethiopian administration and Britain, the then colonizer of Sudan

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[SPLM's Convention to convene today in Juba](#)

(Alkhartoum) First Vice-President and SPLM Leader Silva Kiir briefed on Monday in Juba the SPLM's leadership on the recent security developments in the capital.

The SPLM's Transitional National Council meeting, which was presided over by Kiir, decided the convocation of the SPLM's convention tomorrow (Wednesday).

The meeting, which hailed the performance of SPLM's Northern Sector, was reported to have also approved SPLM's manifesto.

[Representative of SPLM in the government of national unity of Khartoum State condemns aggression on Omdurman town \(SUNA\)](#)

(SUNA) The Commissioner at the Headquarters of Khartoum State and representative of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the government of national unity of Khartoum State Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim Aradaib has condemned the sabotage attempt against Omdurman town, describing the act as desperate and reckless. Speaking to SUNA, he congratulated the Sudanese people over their victory, hailing the regular forces that repulsed the rebellion and realized security and stability for the citizens.

[Darfur](#)

[JEM'S Spokesperson says JEM ready for peaceful negotiations \(Aljazera\)](#)

(Aljazera) JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam told Aljazera Monday evening that Chad had never fought with them in attacking Omdurman

Adam ruled out claims that JEM fought with the support of the Chadian troops, saying that these allegations were attempting to distort the reality on the ground and to involve others in the conflict, as well as to justify attacks against the civilians in Darfur.

He categorically denied JEM having any connection with Popular Congress Party of Al-Turabi, vowing to conquer the capital again if the government continues attacking

civilians in Darfur states and practicing ethnic cleansing policies against Darfuris in the capital.