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Highlights

Main News

116 killed from SAF, 34 civilians in incidents in Omdurman – Defence Minister tells Parliament (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam/Al-Khartoum) The Sudanese Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein told the Parliament yesterday he was ready for any accountability and resignation because of attack on Omdurman last Saturday. However, he said, SAF had defeated the invaders.

The Defence Minister addressed the National Assembly yesterday on the incidents in Omdurman.

He said 263 out of 309 rebels' vehicles were destroyed. In each vehicle was about eight rebels and their main target was Radio, SAF HQ and the Republican Palace, the Minister explained.

Regarding casualties, the Defence Minister said 116 killed on SAF side and 34 civilian, breakup as follows:

4 SAF officers killed and 3 others wounded. 93 SAF soldiers killed, 2 missing including one SAF vehicle. On civilian side 30 persons killed and those wounded were still being counted. With regard to foreigners, four persons were killed (2 Egyptians and 2 Senegalese). There were 20 rebel bodies located yesterday in addition to 91 bodies in one mortuary.

SAF aircraft were still chasing JEM leader Khalil who is believed to be at borders between Northern State and Kordofan State heading westward.

For his part, the Interior Minister, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, told the Parliament yesterday that 23 police killed and 85 wounded and about 35 reports were received from civilians complaining of destruction of their vehicles. He described the rebels as Chad-supported mercenaries.

The Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the attack and also condemned Chadian regime for a hand in the incidents.

POWs reveal link between elements within and JEM attack – President Bashir

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) President Bashir said the recent incidents in Omdurman had rallied the people around the leadership. He has commended the people's support to the Armed Forces in their fight against traitors and mercenaries.

He said a number of JEM elements and documents were captured and interrogation revealed a link between the mercenaries and some elements within.

GoS suspends talks with armed movements

(Al-Sahafa) Sudan Government yesterday declared suspension of negotiations with all rebel movements in Darfur particularly Khalil-led JEM and SLM (Abdul Wahid), preferring to fight a war with them.

Presidential Advisor Nafie Ali Nafie who is also in charge of Darfur dossier said JEM, by attacking Khartoum, had blocked the path of negotiations with Sudan Government.

UN/Agencies

UN reveals outbreak of cholera in south Sudan

(Rai Al-Shaab) UN revealed the outbreak of cholera amid SPLA soldiers in Juba and Abyei.

UNMIS Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressely at press conference yesterday said cholera broke out in Abyei since two weeks and in Juba since May 9 revealing two cases of death and eight others contracted the disease amid SPLA soldiers.

He said UNMIS made efforts to prevent the spread of the disease amid SPLA soldiers by training them to protect themselves from contracting the disease.

On the other hand, he has warned JEM against the use of violence to resolve Darfur problem adding that UN was ready to assist the implementation of provisions of Abuja agreement.

With regard to census, he said refugees and IDPs who returned while census was on have not been counted.

UNSC condemns Darfur rebel attack on Khartoum

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council Tuesday strongly condemned an attack by Darfur rebels against Sudan's capital, but warned Khartoum not to retaliate against civilians.

Rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked Khartoum Saturday, but were crushed in a battle with Sudanese troops. It was the first time fighting had reached the city in decades of conflict between the traditionally Arab-dominated central government and rebels from outlying regions of Sudan.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the attacks of 10 May perpetrated by the ... JEM against the Sudanese government in Omdurman and urges all parties to cease violence immediately," the 15-nation council said in a statement.

The unanimous policy declaration urged, "Restraint by all parties, and in particular, warns that no retaliatory action should be taken against civilian populations, or that has an impact on stability in the region."

New York-based group Human Rights Watch voiced concern at what it said were mass arrests in Khartoum after the fighting.

The council called on regional states to cooperate to put "an end to the activities of armed groups and their attempts to seize power by force."

This was seen as alluding also to a February attack by rebels in neighboring Chad against its capital N'Djamena. Chad accused Sudan of backing the rebels, while the Khartoum government has blamed Chad for being behind Saturday's attack.

The Security Council's current president, Ambassador John Sawers of Britain, described the fighting in Omdurman as a "mirror image" of the assault on N'Djamena.

He told reporters Tuesday's statement "demonstrates the council's even-handedness in Sudan."

Sudanese Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem, more used to hearing criticism from the council over Sudan's actions in Darfur, expressed satisfaction at the statement. "This is exactly what we wanted the council to do," he told reporters.

U.N. officials say at least 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million driven from their homes by the five-year conflict in Darfur, western Sudan. Sudanese officials say only some 10,000 have died. (Editing by Chris Wilson)

[GoNU](#)

Foreign Minister orders Chadian Charge d’Affaires to leave within a week

(Al Rai Al Aam) Director of the Foreign Ministry’s Directorate of Protocol Ambassador Ali Yousuf said Chadian Charge d’Affaires was summoned by the Ministry and the Mission was ordered to leave the country within a week.

He said JEM committed terrorist acts in Khartoum – murdering, looting, and terrorizing civilians as well as recruitment children.

The Ambassador added that Sudan was in the process of lodging complaint to the AU PSC, Dakar Contact Group, Desert and Coast Grouping and OIC against Chad for involvement in attack on Khartoum.

Dr. Turabi: Government defeat is a great shock

(Khartoum Monitor) Dr. Turabi, the General Secretary of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) disclosed that the defeat of the National Armed Forces in Omdurman, on Saturday was a great shock to the leaders of the Armed Forces, and the national intelligence forces as well as the leader of the National Congress Party. He asserted that JEM forces, not civilians, targeted the above-mentioned forces.

In a press conference held at his residence yesterday, Dr. Turabi added that the National Intelligence justified his detention by claiming that his party had links with JEM.

However, they failed to produce any striking evidence.

Dr. Turabi said that his release and five of his party members occurred after investigations adding that 21 of their colleagues would be released consecutively.

Turabi continued to say that authorities were trying to cover up their failures and detention of his party members has extended to states such as Northern Kordofan.

President of the Republic to address demonstration today

(Al-Khartoum) The President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Hassan Al-Bashir will address a march today to be staged in celebration of SAF victory over JEM.

All sections of the Sudanese society will take part in this demonstration.

US charge d’Affaires condemns JEM attack

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The US Charge d’Affaires in Khartoum Alberto Fernandez said JEM Attack on Omdurman was not acceptable adding that USA was against violence and killing in Sudan. He said his country was the only country that imposed sanctions on JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim.

He said the dialogue between the two countries was now focused on political solution for the problem in the region.

Sudan arrests wife of JEM leader in Khartoum

(ST) May 13, 2008 (LONDON) – Sudanese security service arrested Mrs Zinad Ali Yousif, wife of Khalil Ibrahim, chairman of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement who led an attack against the Sudanese capital.

Rebel JEM said on Tuesday that Zinad was arrested on Tuesday in the Sudanese capital where she lives with her children.

Khalil wife is from Al-Jazeera State, in central Sudan. He met her when he was a student in Al-Jazeera University.

JEM condemned the arrest saying that Ibarhim kept his family away from his political activities. "Her arrest shows how low Albashir's Government can sink." The statement said.

Ibrahim sons and daughters are studying in the Sudanese schools and universities in Khartoum.

Egypt expels JEM rebels from Cairo

(ST) May 13, 2008 (CAIRO) — Egyptian authorities have ordered representatives of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement to leave the country, Sudan Tribune has learnt.

Ahmed Tugd, top negotiator for the Justice and Equality Movement, Ahmed Sharif and Mohamed Ali are expelled by the Egyptian security service from the country, yesterday.

Statements made by Tugud to the al-Jazeera TV saying JEM controlled important parts of the Sudanese capital also angered the Egyptian authorities.

Egypt opened its doors for Darfur rebel movements and tolerated their political activities hoping to convince them to hold peace talks with the Sudanese government and to play a leading role in the settlement of the conflict.

Egypt had reacted strongly to JEM attack on Khartoum. In a statement condemning the foiled coup Cairo warned against any attempt to de-stabilize the security and political stability in Sudan. President Hosni Mubarak also was the first to talk with Omer al-Bashir after the attack.

African Union leader to visit Sudan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Chairman of the African Union Commission and the Commissioner of the AU Peace and Security Council are due here next Friday.

Sudan's Ambassador to Addis Ababa Mohi Eddin Salim told (SUNA) that the African diplomats would meet government officials to be familiarized with the security situation following the recent attack by JEM on the capital.

GoSS

SPLM convention to begin on May 15

(ST) May 13, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — James Wani Egga, the Chairman of the second convention organizing committee announced Tuesday the opening of the SPLM convention on Thursday May 15.

The SPLM convention was scheduled to begin on May 11, but it was postponed due to the Justice and Equality attack on Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman on May 10.

Egga told the Sudanese TV that the SPLM Interim National Council prepared most of the amendments related to the manifesto of the party and its constitution.

More than 1500 delegates from the 26 Sudanese states are in Juba since last week to take part in the convention under the slogan «No to war, yes to the New Sudan».

Following the postponement, some voices within the SPLM Interim Council had suggested to adjourn the convention to June.

Libya condemns JEM attack on Omdurman

(Akhir Lahza) Libya has strongly condemned the aggression launched by JEM on Omdurman.

“Libya strongly condemns the attack which took place at a time when AU and neighbouring countries were making efforts to resolve the problem in Darfur,” said a statement issued by the Ministry.

Darfur

Fire breaks out in IDPs camps in West Darfur

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Fire Brigade contained a fire that broke out at Abu-Zar Algaifari IDPs camp in Genaina, West Darfur State.

A reliable source told the newspaper that six women were wounded and 200 tents were destroyed adding that investigations were currently underway to identify the cause of the fire.

According to the source a fire also broke out at Al-Riyadh IDPs camp resulting in the destruction of 90 tents and the injury of 10 citizens.

Miscellaneous

Khalil and suicide in Omdurman, did the hybrid troop play a role in favour of Omdurman invaders (article)

By: Yousuf Abdul Manan

(Akhir Lahza) – Gist of the article – According to sources, the real victory achieved by SAF over JEM is that JEM has been incapacitated as 220 of its vehicles have been destroyed and most of its senior commanders have been killed in Omdurman.

Most western countries particularly USA and UN have condemned JEM attack on Omdurman but the Arab countries hesitated to follow suit.

Before launching his attack on Omdurman, media showed pictures of JEM leader Khalid Ibrahim with Hybrid leaders exchanging smiles in the field and then the march began for invasion of Omdurman.

The hybrid troops have not taken any action, issued warning or declared a position towards JEM preparation for military activities. Were the hybrid troops complementary to invasion of Omdurman? Or were they basically a creation intended to curb SAF activity and assist Darfur rebels to perpetrate hostile acts?

Rights groups concerned about Sudan arrests

Human rights groups have raised concerns about the treatment of people arrested in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in recent days. The police crackdown follows an attack Saturday on the outskirts of the capital by rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement. Derek Kilner has more from VOA's East Africa bureau in Nairobi.

The New York-based organization Human Rights Watch says it is concerned about the treatment of those arrested since Saturday's attack and urged the government to act quickly to try or release those detained.

Official Sudanese media report that at least 300 people have been arrested in connection with the rebel attack, though many expect the number is higher. President Omar al-Bashir said those arrested will receive a fair trial.

Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi, who has been suspected of ties to the Justice and Equality Movement, was detained for more than 12 hours on Monday. He has been released, but some members of his Popular Congress Party remain in detention.

There have been growing concerns that Sudanese security forces are rounding up people from Darfur who are living in Khartoum.

Jar Al-Nabi Abdul Karim, a field commander with a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army - another rebel group not involved in Saturday's attack - spoke to VOA from North Darfur.

"Someone contacted me from Khartoum yesterday. He told me there are many people from Darfur, from other tribes not only Zaghawa, they were being arrested. This is very bad. They do not have any relations with the attack by JEM. We demand the international community to help the people who the government arrested," said Karim.

Government spokesman Rabie Atti denies that the government is arresting civilians from Darfur.

"The security authorities and the police authorities are looking after the people who were involved in the attack," said Atti. "The government is not arresting Darfurians in general. That is not correct."

Sudanese security forces continued their search for rebels it believes are hiding out in the outskirts of the capital, and a curfew remains in place in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile where Saturday's attack took place.

The government is in particular seeking the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, Khalil Ibrahim, who is believed to have fled to North Darfur. The government has offered a hefty reward for his capture.

Meanwhile, the government of neighboring Chad has closed its border with Sudan, after President Bashir accused Chad of supporting the rebel attack.