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(By Public Information Office)

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 - Editorials, Opinion, Other Stories:
 - The *Sudan Vision* editorial titled "UNMIS Spokesperson Conjectures" is scanned in separate attachment. The paper criticizes the Spokesperson of "deviating from the mandate" and praises the AMIS for "issuing balanced statements".
 - Mohamed Ahmed Tebidi of *AlWattan* daily writes on Spokesperson Radhia. The piece is attached separately.
 - *SudanTribune.com* reproduces this story from the United Nations Mission in Sudan News Bulletin of 13 May 2007. [UN says 2 SPLA soldiers, 3 civilians killed in South Sudan](#)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur faces collapse - officials

(The Washington Post via SudanTribune.com) The beleaguered African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur is on the verge of collapse, a development that is undercutting international efforts to protect civilians and deploy United Nations reinforcements, according to A.U. and U.N. officials.

The African Union's first major peacekeeping mission — once considered the last line of defense for Darfur's civilians — has been crippled by funding and equipment shortages, government harassment and an upsurge in armed attacks by rebel forces that last month left seven African troops dead.

The setbacks have sapped morale among peacekeepers, many of whom have not been paid for months. It has also compelled the force — which numbered 7,000 troops at its peak — to scale back its patrols and has diminished its capacity to protect civilians, aid workers and its own peacekeepers. In one example, Gambian troops last month failed to aid a Ghanaian peacekeeper who was gunned down in a carjacking incident within 300 yards of the mission's Darfur headquarters, U.N. officials said.

The crisis comes as the Sudanese government has renewed aerial bombardment in Darfur. And it has raised serious concerns among U.N. planners and outside experts about the viability of plans to deploy a joint U.N. and A.U. peacekeeping mission of up to 20,000 troops. Some governments that have committed to send troops and equipment to Darfur are either balking or failing to make good on their pledges.

"The risk is great that everything will collapse," African Union Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare warned last month during Darfur talks in New York. "Today, we have soldiers who have been waiting three or four months to be paid." [Follow the link for the full text [AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur faces collapse - officials](#)].

Eritrean leader says western greed, not wishes to resolve the Darfur issue, behind push for UN Darfur force

(*AlSahafa*) The Eritrean leader has ruled out the likelihood of a foreign solution to the Darfur crisis and has affirmed the ability of the people of Sudan in resolving their internal problems.

President Affewerki pointed out that the Sudanese government is not to blame for the complications that came with and in the wake of the DPA. He said that the escalation of the crisis in Darfur can only be attributed to western greed for the resources of Sudan.

In statements to an Emirates-based news agency, the Eritrean president also pointed out that the ICC indictment of Sudanese suspects only further adds fuel to the complications.

Egypt may contribute 2,000 peacekeepers for Darfur

(*AlSudani*) Egypt and Sudan have agreed that Egypt send 2,000 peacekeepers to strengthen the envisaged United Nations force for Darfur.

The Sudan government has described this as a “courageous step” on the part of the Egyptian government and the United Nations has welcomed the step.

Editorials, Opinion, Other Stories:

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CPA

Joint NCP, SPLM executive committee meets in Khartoum

(*The Citizen*) The Joint Executive Committee of the parties to the CPA sitting yesterday at the Friendship Hall under the joint leadership of VP Taha and GoSS VP Machar discussed issues related to the formation of institutions.

The two parties agreed to convene regular meetings of the executive committee to consolidate cooperation in different areas and to implement the CPA.

The meeting saw the establishment of a Judicial Committee, a Civil Aviation Committee, an Information Committee, a Legal Affairs Committee, a committee on West Kordofan and a committee on the White Nile Petroleum Company.

National Congress Party member el-Dirderi Mohamed said that problems related to religion and education were discussed and there was agreement on many points including on the importance of freedom of belief and a commission on the rights of Muslims in southern Sudan.

The two parties also agreed that telecommunications in Sudan will operate under one national code, aviation companies in southern Sudan would operate under the Civil Aviation Authority and matters concerning passports and nationality cards be harmonised at the national level.

Due to insufficient time, the issues of Abyei and the White Nile Petroleum Company have been deferred to the next meeting of the committee which takes place on 24 May time.

Government of National Unity

President Mubarak said to be preparing for a Bashir, Gadhaffi meeting

(*AlRai ALAaam*) Emirates-based *AlKhaleej* newspaper reports that President Husni Mubarak of Egypt is exerting efforts to bring presidents Bashir and Gadhaffi to a meeting.

According to diplomatic sources the newspaper quotes, relations between the leaders of Sudan and Libya are but a “summer cloud” that will soon pass leaving relations between the two countries back on track.

Justice Minister says foreign parties would not monitor judicial processes in Sudan

(*AlWatan*) The Minister of Justice says there is no way that the international community will be allowed to monitor judicial process in the country.

Minister el-Mardi was responding to recent statements quoting Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail as having stated that the Sudan government is prepared to study evidence compiled by the ICC against Kosheib and Haroun and to try the two in an open trial that regional and international parties could monitor should they wish to do so.

El-Mardi told reporters yesterday that the Sudanese judiciary is not under suspicion in order that it's processes be monitored by regional and international parties. He said that the international community could monitor elections or political process but not the judiciary. He said he does not think that the Presidential Advisor meant that regional and international parties could monitor the judicial processes in the country.

He also pointed out that the Sudan government still holds on to its position not to hand over any Sudanese for an ICC trial.

Defense minister and security and intelligence chief on short visit to N'Djamena

(Alrai AlAam) The Minister of Defense and the National Security and Intelligence were on a short visit to N'Djamena yesterday and leave today for the Ethiopian capital for talks with Prime Minister Zennawi.

In N'Djamena, the two held talks with President Debe over the security situation in the two countries.

Following meetings with officials in N'Djamena, Sudan's Defense Minister said that the meeting comes in the framework of implementation of the Riyadh and Tripoli agreements aimed at restoring stability along the common borders of the two countries.

States' Council to be appraised today on the situation in Eastern Equatoria

(AlAyaam) The Deputy Speaker of the States' Council will be briefing the council today on the political and constitutional situation in Eastern Equatoria.

The briefing follows a tour by a delegation from the council to the said states.

Southern Sudan

LRA faces expulsion from Juba hotel over unpaid bill

(The Monitor via SudanTribune.com) As peace talks resume, the LRA delegates at the negotiations in Juba, are facing eviction over US\$100,000 (about Shs172 million) in unpaid hotel bills. The management of Juba Bridge Hotel, where the delegates are residing have denied food to the LRA team. Apart from the 15 peace negotiators, the LRA has three rebel commanders who sit on the Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team, eight security guards and three drivers.

The cost of accommodation, medical, allowances and incidentals are supposed to be paid by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-Ocha), the Ugandan Daily Monitor reported.

Ocha on October 6 launched a US\$4.8 million Juba Initiative Fund to facilitate the peace negotiations, along with financing from the Governments of South Sudan and Uganda. Uganda contributed US\$1m (about Shs1.7bn) making a total of US\$5.8m.

Daily Monitor failed to get a comment from the UN yesterday and the peace secretariat at the Juba Raha Hotel in Juba town, which is under Riek Machar, Vice-President of South Sudan.

Juba Bridge Hotel declined to comment. But the LRA peace delegation chairman, Martin Ojul and the delegates' information and publicity secretary, Godfrey Ayoo confirmed the eviction threats.

"The Lords Resistance Army / Movement (LRA/M) would like to inform the people of Uganda and the International Community that members of LRA/M Peace Delegations resident in Juba

Bridge Hotel, are being denied basic services by the hotel management which cites unpaid bills as reasons for cutting down on essential services," a joint statement by Ojul and Ayoo said.

The rebels called upon the UN and the international community to resolve the issue

Ugandan rebels to assemble troops in one point in South Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com*) The leader of LRA delegation to peace talks in Juba said they would pull out their troops from Eastern Equatoria state to Ri-Kwangba in Western Equatoria state, the LRA only accepted assembling point.

“To be more practical to you our mothers and sisters from Eastern and Western Equatoria states, we the LRM/A going to pull out our forces from Eastern Equatoria state in order to avoid incriminations, and to pave way for your government to identify who are the real criminals terrorizing Eastern Equatoria state” said Martin Ojul, the head of LRA delegation.

Martin Ojul was responding to challenges presented to his delegation to the Juba peace talks by the disappointed mothers from eastern and western Equatoria states today at Juba Bridge Hotel in Juba the capital of Southern Sudan autonomous Government.

On behalf of LRA, Martin Ojul apologized for crimes committed by their soldiers on innocent people of southern Sudan. He promised that such atrocities would not happen again because they have now secured all the necessary supplies for their forces who will be based in one location in Western Equatoria state till peace is realized.

Ojul hailed the initiative of Sudanese women in seeking to know the truth from LRM/A and requested Sudanese women to create communication network with his team so that they are given right information on the progress of peace talks.

The Deputy Charlady of LRM/A delegation to Juba peace talks, Miss. Josephine Apira, also appealed to Sudanese women from Eastern Equatoria state to demand from their government the removal of the UPDF from southern Sudan territory, adding that Ugandan parties to the conflict have already signed a cessation of hostilities as a way forward for negotiation, therefore, there is no reason for UPDF occupying southern Sudanese territories in large number.

Dr. James Obita, a member of LRA delegation assured Sudanese women that observers from South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Democratic Republic of Congo have already visited all the designated assembly sites and would be responsible in monitoring LRA relocation and movement while in Western Equatoria state until peace is relies within the next two months, said Obita.

He further stated that there would be a general consultative meeting with all conflict affected areas of northern, eastern and western Uganda to be held in Nairobi in the month of June this year; that the purpose of consultation meeting in Nairobi Kenya is to endorse the draft comprehensive agreement that would be read through page by page before its final signing in Juba.

Meanwhile the acting LRM/A Spokesman to peace talks who is also the Secretary for information, Godfry Ayo attributed the delay of the peace talks on what he called prejudices from the mediators, Ugandan Government and UN representatives in the talks who were adamant to LRA request that number of observers be increased to include African head of states, guarantee of security to LRM/A on negotiations table, convenience venue, chief mediator should be free and competence including better incentives for LRM/A negotiating team.

SPLM honors Alfred Taban, others

(Khartoum Monitor) The SPLM has honored Alfred Taban (*the Khartoum Monitor*), Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh (*AlAyaam*) and Amal Abas (*AlSahafa*) for “having played a significant role in the dissemination of information and press work across the country”.

Other Stories:

- [USSP disapproves South Sudan plan to borrow from World Bank](#)

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups welcome Mubarak and Mirghani initiatives

(Allintibaha) President Mubarak of Egypt and Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani who heads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have called upon Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups to a consultative meeting in Cairo next Sunday.

The JEM has accepted the invitation while SLM-AbdulWahid has shown some reserve and it is not clear whether the movement will attend. It is worth noting that AbdulWahid has also rejected VP Salva Kiir’s calls for a meeting in Juba of the non-signatories and has dubbed such a meeting as “a new conspiracy of the regime”.

Sudanese foreign minister raps rebel groups in Darfur for not being united

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 13 May) The foreign minister, Dr Lam Akol, said that the big number of rebel movements, which reached 14 factions, and absence of a united negotiation stance of these rebel movements is a reason behind the inability to reach solution of Darfur issue.

At a meeting Saturday [12 May] in Nairobi while he was en route from the Republic of South Africa to Khartoum with the staff of Sudan Embassy to Kenya led by Ambassador Majok Juandonj [name as received], Dr Akol referred to the call of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] to the importance of a unified stance of the rebel movements in Darfur so that the government can deal with them. He referred to the root causes of the conflict in Darfur. He said that there is no reason for international forces for Darfur after reaching understandings of Addis Ababa and Abuja agreement and start of implementation of the first and second support packages.

The minister pointed out that deployment of forces in Darfur will not lead to solution of the problems, affirming that the political causes of the issue shall be addressed for reaching a political and peaceful solution in Darfur after convincing the parties that did not sign Darfur peace agreement to sit for negotiations with the government. He referred to the recent mediation efforts of the UN and the AU and Tripoli meeting, pointing out that Sudan government assured the mediators of its clear position and readiness for negotiations on Darfur issue without preconditions, excluding the single condition of considering Darfur peace agreement the basis for negotiation.

He described the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as a turning point and a landmark democratic step in Sudan, adding that the two parties of the CPA shall do their best to preserve this agreement and to implement all its items. He said that the most important aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement include the prevalence of security and stability and establishment of the constitutional and legal organs, governments, legislative councils and commissions in accordance with the peace agreement, referring to endeavours to set up the remaining commissions in the current session of the National Assembly.

Dr Akol said that non commitment of the donors to their commitments, which they have declared in the Donors Conference in Oslo, is a real factor impeding the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He said that the government has beard the cost of the new Sudanese currency which reached 160 million dollars. He affirmed the importance of a national committee to inform the ordinary people with the CPA clauses with the aim to avoid any misinterpretation in this regard.

The minister said that the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was affected by Darfur issue, because the donors tended to give the pretext that they shifted their financial support to the humanitarian work in Darfur.

EU envoy urges Darfur rebels to join peace process, pledges aid

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 13 May) The EU envoy who is currently visiting Darfur has encouraged the none-signatory [rebel] movements of the Abuja peace agreement to join the peace process in a bid to achieve a comprehensive peace in all the Darfur regions.

During his meeting today with the senior presidential assistant and the president of the Darfur Regional Authority, Mani Arkoi Minnawi, the EU envoy promised to support projects of the Darfur Regional Authority until it is able to implement all its programmes in the three Darfur regions.

For his part, the president of the Darfur Regional Authority affirmed to the EU envoy that the priorities of his administration in the current period is to support and progress the development projects in Darfur and return those displaced to their villages and accord them the basic necessities in order to realize peace and stability in Darfur.

Darfur MPs blame NCP for delay in implementation of the DPA

(AlIntibaha) Representatives from Darfur have slammed the National Congress Party over the slow pace of implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The MPS call upon the party to leave ambiguities aside and to instead clearly define its true position towards all initiatives launched and towards relations with neighbouring states, especially relative to the Darfur issue.

PDF Coordinator killed in ambush in Tulus, South Darfur

(Rai AlShaab) The PDF Coordinator was killed and seven PDF personnel injured in an ambush while on their way to Buram from Tulus yesterday.

The attackers have not been identified and the newspaper has failed to get more information on the incident.