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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Darfur force may fail if problems not settled - UN

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — A planned U.N.-African Union peace force for Darfur could fail unless disputes with Sudan over its make-up are resolved and key specialized units found, the top U.N. peacekeeping official said on Wednesday.

But in his most pessimistic public assessment so far of prospects for the force, U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno said: "We believe that now is the time really to face very important decisions, because the clock is ticking."

If the problems were not addressed quickly, "it means that the mission in 2008 ... will not be able to make the difference that the world wants it to make and that it may become a failure," he said after briefing the Security Council.

"They (Sudanese authorities) are saying that they want to continue technical discussions," Guehenno, who diplomats said had just returned from meeting Sudanese military officials in Ethiopia, told reporters.

In addition, no country has so far offered required ground transport equipment or met a U.N. request for 18 transport helicopters and six attack helicopters.

Diplomats have said that countries that could provide such equipment, which they say are likely to be non-African, are either overstretched elsewhere or worried about the command and control arrangements of the joint U.N.-AU force.

(Reuters)

Mediators urge Darfur rebels to hold direct talks in December

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM, Sudan) — Envoys from the United Nations and the African Union urged Darfur's rebel groups on Wednesday to reach a common ground in hope of having direct talks with the Sudanese government next month in Libya.

"We will hope that the movements now will increase their work and crystallize their positions to prepare themselves for the talks. We know this is a difficult process, but we hope they realize that there are great expectations from the people of Darfur and Sudan and also from the international community for them to agree soon to a common negotiation team and negotiation issues," Jan Eliasson, the U.N. chief mediator, told reporters after arriving in Khartoum from Eritrea with AU envoy, Salim Ahmed Salim.

Salem also confirmed that the talks would remain Sirte, despite speculation that they could be moved to another city.

"The origin of the talks was Sirte, and the ending of the talks will be Sirte," Salim said.

The mediators say they invited all rebel groups so that talks were as inclusive possible to try to end more than four years of fighting that have killed more than 200,000 people and chased 2.5 million from their homes.

(AP)

UN agency says it needs \$ 400m to return southerners to south

The Citizen-- International Organization for Migration (IOM) said yesterday that there are thousands of IDPs who will be remaining inside the camps if the donors do not pay funds equivalent to \$ 400 million to fund their transportation to the original homes.

Officials from the humanitarian organization said they need money to transport 100,000 displaced persons back to their homeland in southern Sudan beginning next year.

In wake of animal fever, UN expert warns against vaccination

The Citizen-- A UN animal expert sent to Sudan to help control the rift valley fever has said vaccination should be avoided. FAO's chief veterinary officer Joseph Domenech said targeted vaccination campaigns may help to protect uninfected ruminant animals in high-risk areas such as wetlands but will not work with already infected herds and areas. "Vaccination of infected herds arrives too late for controlling the disease and must be avoided as it may aggravate the situation," he said.

UN to approve budget of the hybrid Monday

AlSahafa-- The UN General Assembly Fifth Committee, responsible for the UN financial and administrative affairs, will hold a meeting on Monday next week (19 November) to discuss the funding and budget of the hybrid operation in Darfur.

Salim, Eliasson oppose moving talks from Sirte

AlSahafa-- Sudan neighboring countries decided to resume their meetings on Darfur during the first week of December.

The AU and UN Envoys Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson arrived in Khartoum yesterday for more consultations with the Government before the next round of Sirte peace talks.

At Khartoum airport yesterday, Eliasson stressed the important role of the Sudan neighboring countries in the Darfur peace process.

Salim Ahmed Salim said the most important thing is that the rebel factions have been given time to unify their positions. He stressed that the talks will continue in Sirte.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Advocacy group slams US proposal to rescue Sudan's CPA

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — An advocacy group today denounced the plan proposed by the US Administration to end the stalemate in the implementation of the Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) urging its full implementation.

The group known as 'Enough', established with a goal to end genocide and crime against humanity, criticized the new US proposals submitted to the south Sudanese relating specifically to the oil rich region of Abyei, border demarcation and troops redeployments.

The publication of this report comes hours before the meeting of the US President George W. Bush with the southern Sudan leader, Salva Kiir. The two leaders are expected to discuss mainly the ill implementation of the US brokered peace deal between the North and South.

The U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, last week proposed a set of "confidence-building measures" to Salva Kiir, who is also the First Vice President of the republic. The measures suggested that China, Saudi Arabia and the United States mediate between the NCP and SPLM to formulate a "package deal" to solve the impasse around Abyei and north-south border demarcation.

(ST)

Kiir's Washington visit contravenes diplomatic conventions

Sudan Vision-- The Foreign Ministry has stated that the visit of First Vice President of the Republic, First Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, to the United States breaches diplomatic norms. The First Vice President should have received the invitation from his American counterpart, Dick Cheney, rather than from the US State Department, the official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ali Al Saddig, said, pointing out that a communiqué to that effect had been received from the US Embassy in Khartoum.

At the press conference he held yesterday in the Foreign Ministry building, Al Saddig revealed that the Foreign Ministry had returned the communiqué to the US Embassy requiring the invitation to be addressed from Kiir's counterpart and not from the State Secretary, adding that no response has been made to that request to date. He negated that this issue will offset a diplomatic crisis between the US Embassy and the Foreign Ministry.

On the other hand, the Foreign Ministry slammed the SPLM Liaison Bureau in Washington for calling on the UN Secretary General to hold a special Security Council session for hearing the First Vice President, stressing that the move was "diplomatically unacceptable" because the SPLM does not have a diplomatic mission and is consequently not entitled to address UN sessions on diplomatic issues.

"We consider this a stark transgression of the functions for which the Bureau was established," Al Saddig stated.

He explained that the activities of the SPLM liaison bureaus abroad have been jointly discussed more than once at the level of the Joint Political Committee after which the SPLM agreed that these bureaus be barred from practicing in diplomatic work since this is the task of the country's diplomatic missions rather than of factions or parties.

The Security Council had officially turned down an SPLM invitation to hold a special session to be addressed by the First Vice President of the Republic on difficulties that impede the progress of the peace agreement. Sources close to the Security Council were quoted as stating that several countries view the convention of such a session as a breach of the UN Charter that will set a precedent. The source further indicated that the US Administration had advised the SPLM leader to sit with the NCP to resolve the contested issues.

US expresses surprise at Kiir remarks on progress of Sudan peace

By: Wasil Ali

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The US expressed surprise today at statements made by Sudan First Vice President Salva Kiir to members of the US Congress last Thursday in which he said that the peace agreement is off track.

A US official speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issues discussed, said that Kiir made statements to US lawmakers

that contradicted with the recent understanding reached between Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

“He [Kiir] signed an agreement on November 3rd with the NCP on a framework to resolve outstanding issues. There is progress made on the CPA [Comprehensive peace agreement]”.

The U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, last week proposed a set of “confidence-building measures” to Kiir. One of the proposals was that China, Saudi Arabia and the US would mediate between the NCP and SPLM to formulate a “package deal” to solve the impasse around Abyei and north-south border demarcation.

However Kiir rejected the proposal saying that he is satisfied with the agreement reached with the NCP last week to resolve the outstanding issues in the CPA.

The spokesman for the US State department Sean McCormack said last week that based on Kiir’s assessment of the CPA implementation, the new proposals are “no longer relevant, because they’ve [SPLM & NCP] actually moved beyond it”.

The US official cautioned against any talk of returning to war between the North and South.

“There are hardliners within the SPLM who want to go back to war. I don’t believe they are ready for such an option which would be devastating for South Sudan and the entire country” the official said.

The official stressed that the CPA implementation is a priority for the US policy in Sudan.

“We are honest brokers and we want the peace agreement to hold and be successful” the official added.

(ST)

Rift Valley Fever kills 92 people in Sudan

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Rift Valley Fever has killed 96 people in Sudan since reports of an outbreak surfaced a week ago and it is still spreading, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday.

The UN body has started holding daily meetings to monitor the spread of the disease, which can kill as many as half of those who contract it, has no effective human vaccine and can devastate livestock.

A WHO spokeswoman said the latest figures showed 329 known human cases in Sudan, up from 228 reported six days ago, with a death rate of just under 30 percent.

In its most serious haemorrhagic form, which the WHO says has appeared in Sudan, it can kill up to 50 per cent of the people it infects.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said it had sent an animal health expert to Sudan to help the government contain any outbreak in livestock and said Sudan had already reported some animal infections to the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health.

Egypt had also sent teams of vets to its southern border with Sudan to monitor the situation, media said.

The FAO said they were also monitoring an outbreak of desert locusts in northern Sudan. It warned that without proper spraying, the insects could form swarms and devastate crops in countries along the Red Sea coast, and as far west as Sudan's troubled Darfur region, into next year.

(Reuters)

[Bashir: Attempt to take children from Chad part of Western plot](#)

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM, Sudan) — President Omar Bashir has accused a French charity that allegedly attempted to fly 103 children from neighboring Chad to Europe of being part of a Western plot to spread Christianity in Sudan.

Bashir said the charity wanted to take the children, who it said were from Darfur, and have them "return back to Sudan as missionaries," the independent Darfur newspaper *Al Sahafa* reported in its Wednesday editions. Bashir made the comments during a Muslim clergy conference in Khartoum on Tuesday.

"The West pushes its nose into our belief and calls for changing our educational curriculum and our garments," *Al Sahafa* quoted Bashir as saying.

(AP)

[Little customs tax revenue collection in South Sudan: Finance Minister](#)

Khartoum Monitor-- The Federal Minister of Finance, Al-Zubeir Ahmed al-Hassan, revealed that according to the CPA and the Interim National Constitution, national non-oil revenue collected in South Sudan is divided between the GoNU and the GoSS after deducting collection cost, and the national revenue in the South mainly comes from customs tariffs, excise duties, value added tax (VAT) and corporate profit. Some areas in the South are inaccessible for opening offices for customs and tax collection, he added.

The revenue collected in south Sudan is very little due to the weak economic activity, he said. Revenue collected in South Sudan in 2005 was 5.5 million SDG, 13.1 SDG in 2006 while in 2007 up to August; it stood at 11.9 million SDG. The Federal Government recruited 204 soldiers and officers from SPLA into the Sudan Customs Force, he added.

[US President to meet Southern Sudan leader today](#)

Khartoum Monitor-- US President George Bush will meet with south Sudan leader, Salva Kiir Mayardit, today November 15 for talks focused on the shaky peace implementation and ways to end violence in Darfur, the White House said Tuesday.

Eastern Sudan still clamors for a better life

The Citizen-- The Spokesperson of the eastern Front, Hamid Idris Suliman, yesterday accused the NCP Government of being unserious, particularly in the issue of the security arrangements.

“The most important protocol in Asmara Agreement (Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement or ESPA for short) is the security arrangements and there is no excuse of delaying it”, he said. Some reliable sources told The Citizen that EF army leaders would submit a protest memorandum to the Eritrean Mediator, requesting him to interfere and solve their problem with the NCP, concerning the security arrangements.

Beja Congress executive member Ali Muneeb, who rejected the Asmara Agreement, said the EF leaders were responsible for miserable conditions in the eastern region.

The citizens interviewed in the east expressed hopelessness in ending marginalization.

Al Bashir: I do not rule out separation, I hope to be a former President

AlRai AlAam-- In an interview with Aljazeera TV (transcript attached) said from the beginning he decided to for a short interim period after which he would step down so that civilians could lead. He added that he was not interested in running for elections but it was imposed on him. “I am looking forward when people talk of al Bashir the former president”, he said.

On South Sudan al Bashir said “Up to now I have never received a report on the performance of the GoSS. I have asked Salva Kiir earlier to keep me informed on the situation in South Sudan”.

Finance Minister: \$ 17 billion Sudan debt service

AlRai AlAam-- Federal Minister of Finance, Al-Zubeir Ahmed al Hassan, said Sudan debt stands at \$ 28 billion and Sudan debt service amounts to \$ 17 billion.

GoS rejects UN being approached by SPLM offices

AlRai AlAam-- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday described the SPLM request to the UN Security Council to hold a session to be addressed by SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir as diplomatically unacceptable and controversial. The MoFA Spokesperson Ali al Sadiq said the UN offices abroad have no right to approach the UN on any political issue.

Aldirdeeri: US proposals on Abyei in line with GoS view

Alwan-- The Government said it is in full agreement with US proposals on resolving the pending issues especially the Abyei issue. He the Presidency agreed on the 2nd of

November on four out of five points suggested by US envoy Natsios and that Natsios proposal on arbitration on Abyei agrees with the resolution of the NCP and SPLM leadership offices in May 2006.

Al Bashir: We will not extradite Haroun and Kosheib to The Hague

In his interview with Aljazeera TV (attached), President al Bashir renewed the GoS stance on not extraditing Haroun and Kosheib to the ICC in The Hague.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry slams first vice-president's visit to USA

Excerpt from report by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna website

The Foreign Ministry has exposed circumstances surrounding the visit of the First Vice-president Salva Kiir Mayardit to Washington after a statement made by the US embassy in Khartoum in which it said the visit took place following an invitation from the US administration.

In a press statement at the Foreign Ministry HQ today, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ambassador Ali al-Sadiq said the ministry received a note from the embassy inviting the first vice-president for a visit to Washington.

Sadiq said the ministry responded to the embassy's note saying that the invitation was issued by the [US] secretary of state which was contrary to diplomatic procedures where the invitation was supposed to come from US vice-president, adding that the embassy has not responded to date.

He said there was another aspect to the visit which is that the communication office of Sudan Liberation Movement in Washington wrote a letter to the UN secretary general requesting for a special UN session which the first vice-president was to address, saying that the issue was controversial and unacceptable.

He said the movement's office is a not a diplomatic one, but for communication purposes, therefore, addressing the UN chief on political issues was not one of its responsibilities in the first place. [Passage omitted]

Source: Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 14 Nov 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 141107/aa/nan

GoSS

Malpractices in appointment exist in South Sudan

By Isaac Vuni

Sudan Tribune, November 13, 2007 (JUBA) — Brigadier General David Manyok Barac, supervising salary payment of southern Sudan parliament told the legislators

today that they have so far not found any ghost names but that there are malpractices in appointments and promotions of officials based on nepotism.

While a team paying Southern Sudan Commissions stated that those in height positions employed their relatives some of whom are not even seen but their pay are collected monthly by same senior officials.

There are 45,103 southern Sudan government employees to be screened by supervision committee comprising of SPLA senior officers and public service establishment officers from various ministries to screen manpower through pay rolls within the unit of the approved 2007 human resource power of an institution as contained in its organization structure and nominal roll.

It has also been noted that some of incompetent young graduates of 2003 are appointed directly to grade four and those who graduated in 2007 are also given grade seven respectively. Meanwhile the experience senior staffs that have no godfathers are made to become their juniors.

According to the directive from the GoSS Minister of Labour, Public, Service and Human Resource Development (MLPS&HRD), the October 2007 salary supervision Committee are directed to pay salary of each ministry within a period of three days; thereafter any covered money has to be remitted to GoSS Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning after seven days meanwhile supervision committee is to present their report to the Minister of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development within seven days for further action.

The team leaders are; Mrs. Josephine Aken from Employee Justice Commission, Mr. Dei Tut Weang from Anti Corruption Commission, Mr. Goi Jok Yul from presidential affairs, Mrs. Joseline Appolo from Civil Service Commission and Mr. Albino Mior Aguer from Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development Juba.

(ST)

Darfur

[Fears for Darfuri asylum seekers after Law Lords ruling](#)

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (LONDON) — Britain's highest court on Wednesday overturned a ruling that the government was acting unlawfully by sending Darfuri asylum seekers back to squatter camps in Sudan.

Campaigners voiced disappointment at the ruling, saying it opened the way for hundreds to be sent back after fleeing the violence-torn Sudanese province of Darfur.

Three Law Lords rejected the Court of Appeal's judgment in April that sending refugees back to camps was "unduly harsh", saying such action was not unreasonable and there was insufficient evidence they could face torture.

(AFP)

TEXT- Nine Darfur rebel factions reunite under one structure

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (JUBA) — Nine rebel Darfur factions have decided to reunite their political organisations and military structures under the name of SLM today in Juba, they further said willing to meet the African Union and United Nations mediators.

In a "Charter of Unification" issued today, the signatories of the document said they agree to unify under the name of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and to disband their existing organisations.

They rebel factions set up a collective leadership formed by the signatories of the charter to realise the unification process "prior to leaving Juba" the statement said.

This move comes after more than a month of meetings in the capital of southern Sudan, Juba. The SPLM leadership which has undertaken this initiative in spite of the joint mediation disregard and the Sudanese government criticism can say they succeeded where the other failed.

(ST)

The text of the Charter of Unification attached to MMR.

Darfur peace talks could move from Libya - mediator

Sudan Tribune, November 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) – While the African Union envoy on Wednesday conceded that he was prepared to conduct part of the Darfur peace talks outside Libya, the chief mediator said clearly that talks will not be scarified for the venue.

Salim Ahmed Salim told reporters that while negotiations would conclude as planned, in the Libyan town of Sirte, "specific areas could be discussed in one place or another".

"The most important thing is not where we go. The most important thing is whether they are prepared now to engage in negotiations," he said.

When asked to clarify the position, the chief U.N. negotiator for the talks, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, told Reuters: "If it comes to it that all sides are against the venue, then we are not going to sacrifice the talks for the venue."

Salim's U.N. counterpart Jan Eliasson, speaking to journalists with Salim on Wednesday, said he was now stepping up efforts to encourage some of the larger

rebel forces to find common ground and attend the second round of negotiations with Sudan's government in December.

Eliasson defended the progress of the peace talks so far. "We would have wanted to start in greater glory with a lot more people present.

"But I would say that the discussions that now go on with such intensity in Juba, in Darfur and elsewhere are because we now have at least the beginning of the process."

Eliasson and Salim spoke after flying into Khartoum from the Eritrean capital Asmara. They said they had held consultations with representatives of governments neighbouring Sudan including Eritrea's president Isaias Afwerki.

(Reuters)

Chinese Red Army wear blue helmets

Alwan-- About 380 troops from the Chinese Red Army are ready to be deployed in Darfur as part of the Chinese contribution to the AU-UN hybrid force. The troops are receiving intensive training before heading to Darfur. The Commander of the Contingent said his force is capable and determined to make its mission a success.