



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 26 November 07

(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- UN humanitarian chief visits Sudan next Wednesday (ST)
- AU/UN must be more active as Darfur deteriorates – ICG (ST)
- Violence Against Women Impedes Peace Efforts, Ki-Moon (Sudan Vision)
- All UN State Members Must Commit to Funding Hybrid Troop/ UN (SMC)
-

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- TEXT: Security situation in Abyei "unpredictable" - CPA panel (ST)
- Message from Salva Kiir to al Bashir, new initiative from Kiir to resolve crisis (AlRai AlAam), SPLM expects crisis to be resolved soon (AlSahafa)
- Opposition parties, organizations sign charter on safeguarding public freedoms (AlSahafa)
- Salva Kiir urges normalization of relations between tribes in ethnic interaction areas (AlAyam)
- Police reveals plan to protect the hybrid and NGOs (AlRai AlAam)
- Sudan ruling party says not informed of Abyei hearing at UNSC (ST)
- NCP Says Committed to Reconciliation Deal with the Opposition (Sudan Vision)
- A British Female Teacher in Khartoum Arrested for Insulting Prophet Mohammed PBU (SMC)
- Criminal Investigation Offices in North and South Launch Collection of illegal Arms (SMC)
- International day to campaign against VAW – Ministry of Justice and UNMIS Human Rights (Khartoum Monitor)
- State vows to take Abyei oil wells if Kiir, Bashir fail to resolve border impasse, New twist in Abyei row as Unity State claims oil wells (The Citizen)
- SPLM rejects ruling party's proposal on Abyei
- US withholding info on Darfur crimes to protect IDP camps: report

➤ **GoSS**

- Kiir: Money from the north to buy votes for unity (Rai AlShaab)
-

➤ **Darfur**

- Chad blames Sudan after rebel attack on aid workers (ST)
- Three million square meters in Nyala for the hybrid (Alkhartoum)
- Sudanese police says no planned attack on Darfur camp (ST)
- Darfur rebels tell China peacekeepers to go home (AFP)
- Darfur and Agwai's many challenges

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN humanitarian chief visits Sudan next Wednesday (ST)

November 25, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The U.N.'s emergency relief coordinator, John Holmes, will visit next week Sudan's troubled region of Darfur to inspect the humanitarian situation there.

Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson, Ali al-Sadiq, said in press statements that Holmes would arrive to Khartoum on Wednesday. He is expected to fly to Darfur from November 30 to December 1 to meet with displaced people.

Sadiq said the UN official will meet humanitarian relief workers and will also meet with UN OCHA officials in Sudan as well as representatives of Non- governmental Organizations in the country.

Holmes will embark on a week-long tour of Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya next week for talks with government and UN officials as well as representatives of other aid agencies, his office said Friday.

The OCHA chief is to wrap up his African tour in Nairobi, Kenya, before heading back to UN headquarters on December 3.

(ST)

AU/UN must be more active as Darfur deteriorates – ICG (ST)

November 25, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The conflict in Sudan's war-torn Darfur has changed radically and for the worse, a think tank warned on Monday, urging African and UN officials to devise a more proactive strategy to bring peace.

"The Darfur conflict has changed radically in the past year and not for the better," said the Brussels-based International Crisis Group (ICG) in a new report on Darfur, where conflict has raged for nearly five years.

"It has mutated, the parties have splintered and the confrontations have multiplied," it said, even if there are many fewer deaths than in 2003-04.

"Violence is again increasing, access for humanitarian agencies is decreasing, international peacekeeping is not yet effective and a political settlement remains far off.

"The strategy the African Union/UN mediation has been following cannot cope with this new reality and needs to be revised," said the report.

The ICG said that peace talks, which broke down rapidly in Libya last month, should be used to broaden participation — given that the most important rebel groups did not attend — and address all the conflict's root causes.

The group said a joint AU-UN peacekeeping mission, scheduled to take over from 7,000 poorly equipped AU troops operating in an area the size of France since 2004, was unlikely to be fully operational until well into next year.

The Khartoum government insists that the joint force be largely African and has objected to Nepalese, Scandinavian and Thai soldiers amid US accusations that Sudan is dragging its feet to obstruct the force's deployment.

"When it is on the ground, UNAMID must build upon lessons learned from its predecessor, including to be more pro-active in protecting civilians and responding to ceasefire violations," it said.

"Its leadership should also engage actively in the peace talks so as to ensure coherence between what is agreed and its capabilities.

"The international community must give it more support than it did AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan), including strong responses, with sanctions as necessary, to further non-compliance by any party, as well as to actions that obstruct the peace process or violate international humanitarian law.

Core issues such as land tenure and use, including grazing rights, and the role and reform of local government and administrative structures, must be negotiated if any final peace deal is to gain wide support, the report said.

The 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement — signed by the Sudanese government and only one major rebel group — was a "failure" said the ICG, charging that its limited number of signatories has hurt the peace process.

The Sudan Liberation Army/Movement of Minni Minawi, in particular, has been responsible for attacks on civilians, humanitarians, the AU mission and some of the violence in the internally displaced person (IDP) camps, the ICG said.

It accused Sudan's main ruling party of wanting chaos in Darfur to hamstring opposition, of resettling key allies and defying the UN Security Council by absorbing Arab militias into security apparatus rather than disarming them.

The ICG said IDP camps, which house up to 2.2 million people, are increasingly violent, that Khartoum is trying to force people to return to unsafe areas and that the conflict has started to spill over to the oil rich Kordofan area.

(AFP)

Violence Against Women Impedes Peace Efforts, Ki-Moon (Sudan Vision)

(SMC), By: Zuleikha Abdel Razeg, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon underlined that, globally, violence against woman is still one of the prime human rights violations and obstructs peace efforts rendered. On the occasion of the International Day for Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women,

Moon instructed UN Security Council a mechanism for monitoring violence against women in accordance with UNSC Resolution (1325) concerning Woman, Peace and Security.

In his message delivered by the UN Representative to SUDAN, while the country was celebrating the occasion yesterday, UNSG reiterated that violence against women is a gross violation of human rights that should be controlled.

Meanwhile, Sudan Violence Against Women Control Unit Director, Dr. Atyat Mustafa affirmed Sudan's commitment to all regional and international conventions in that respect, commenting that divine religions and Sudanese laws urge respect for women.

She further revealed that the Ministry of Justice initiated reviewing of the Sudanese Personal Affairs Act together with Article (139) of the Criminal Law for 1991 to match them with the conventions set.

Dr. Mustafa, assured that women situations in Darfur States witness improvement, calling on the Armed Movements to announce a ceasefire for the sake of eliminating violence against women. She further described as fake, the reports of UN agencies and other humanitarian NGOs operating in the Darfur region alleging violence against women. She, moreover, condemned the Human Rights Rapporteur in Sudan for her reliance on such incredible reports, urging the establishment of a national mechanism parallel to International Human Rights Watch Dogs in conflicts area for countering such allegations.

Commenting on the recommendations set by Experts Committee to the Human Rights

Council, Dr. Mustafa noted that Sudan has already implemented a remarkable part of them, while the Advisory Council for Human Rights announced arrival of the Swiss Government support to projects mentioned in the experts' recommendations.

For her part, representative to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Dr. Khadija Karrar, considered the launching of campaigns against violence as supportive to women, noting that the Government has designed a plan regarding anti-violence against women.

All UN State Members Must Commit to Funding Hybrid Troop/ UN (SMC)

SMC, Sunday 25 November 2007, UN acknowledges it should finance hybrid troops operation in Sudan according to the submission of budget proposals presented by the international organization's commission for administrative and financial matters.

UNMIS spokeswoman Radia Ashori predicts that hybrid operation budget should be endorsed during next December. She confirms that there should be no financial problem regarding the operation. She maintains that financing of the operation is obligation the all UN member states have to fulfill particularly the deployment of troops would take place by the beginning of January next year. In the same development Radia hails Chinese and Portugal for sending advanced troops who are responsible for setting up the basic in restructure on site to receive the hybrid troops in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

TEXT: Security situation in Abyei "unpredictable" - CPA panel (ST)

November 25, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The security situation in the disputed oil rich area of Abyei remains unpredictable as the two peace partners continue to exchange accusations over military build up in the region, says a report issued by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC).

A copy of the confidential report, obtained by Sudan Tribune, on the status of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation describes the security situation in the disputed area of Abyei as unpredictable.

According to the 63 pages report, the redeployment of SPLA forces from East Sudan and of militias in Khartoum has led to the continuous passage of soldiers and arms through Abyei. Both parties say that the other side is strengthening its military presence in Abyei, specifically around the oil-rich areas.

Also, the security situation in the area continues to be tense due to competition between the Dinka Ngok and Misseriya tribes over limited natural resources, basic services and the passage during the rainy and dry season of Misseriya people and cattle.

The report said that Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) refused to consider UN monitors to be deployed in the area north of Abyei because they believe that this area is not part of ceasefire zone. On the other side, the SPLA imposed restrictions in the area south of Abyei.

With regard to the South redeployment of troops in Blue Nile and in South Kordofan, the report says that the SPLA continues to retain forces in these two regions. The numbers were 22,601 in Nuba Mountains and 35,330 in Southern Blue Nile. The redeployment was supposed to have been completed by 15 months into the CPA.

The SPLA is concerned that areas from which its troops have redeployed will become zones of insecurity, the AEC report said.

The findings of this report outline the mistrust that exists with regard of the establishment of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU). On top of that JIU's lack funding for the training, remains with two separate command chains, while each JIU, in principle, has a commander chosen on a rotating basis between SAF and SPLA.

Also, the fact that a portion of SAF elements in JIUs is comprised of former SAF aligned militias or (OAGs) raises the suspicion on the SPLA side of some activities within the SAF elements of the JIUs.

The AEC report, which was issued in October 2007, pointed out that no national programme for reconciliation and healing has been established by the government of national unity.

Further, it mentions that the following bodies are not yet implemented: the National Security Council (NSC), the National Security Service (NSS), Security Committees at the GOSS and the States level, Identification of the Security organs of the two Parties and their assets

The federal parliament enacted the law related to the Development and promotion of national languages but its council has not been formed. Also the law related to the Human rights commission is still under review by the National Assembly.

The report says that the Organization of an inclusive Constitutional Review Process has not yet started.

With regard to the compatibility of southern Sudan states constitutions, the report says that a model of State Constitution had been developed and agreed on both by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Legal Affairs in the south.

Concerning the establishment of National Petroleum Commission (NPC), the report says that the NPC secretariat is partially functioning, but is awaiting southern Sudan government nominees. However the distribution of oil wealth between the North and South is functioning smoothly per the report.

(ST)

Message from Salva Kiir to al Bashir, new initiative from Kiir to resolve crisis (AIRai AIAam), SPLM expects crisis to be resolved soon (AISahafa)

The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir has sent a written message to President al Bashir. The message includes an initiative for resolving the CPA partners' crisis. Meanwhile, the SPLM crisis management committee has concluded in Juba its meetings with the FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir. According to GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong, the committee has agreed on clear and decisive points for resolving the crisis. Biong expects the Presidency to meet soon and resolve on pending issues.

Opposition parties, organizations sign charter on safeguarding public freedoms (AISahafa)

The opposition political forces and civil society organizations have yesterday signed a charter on the protection of public freedoms and basic rights. Among the signatories are the Umma Party, Popular Congress and the Communist Party.

Salva Kiir urges normalization of relations between tribes in ethnic interaction areas (AlAyam)

The National Security Council of the GoSS has resolved in a meeting yesterday which was chaired by FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir to create an atmosphere in the southern areas near the borders with north Sudan to help receiving the nomadic tribes from Darfur, Kordofan, White Nile and Blue Nile. The Council appealed to the SPLA, police and tribal chiefs to facilitate the movements of the nomads.

Police reveals plan to protect the hybrid and NGOs (AIRai AIAam)

The Minister of Interior, al Zubeir Bashir Taha, welcomed the Chinese logistic support to Sudan. He said the Chinese troops and technical teams in the hybrid will be protected the GoS. The police authorities, he stated, will deal with any terrorist operation that may target the elements of the hybrid operation. Al Zubeir said his Ministry is in the process of adopting a plan on the protection of the technical and logistic teams of the hybrid.

Sudan ruling party says not informed of Abyei hearing at UNSC (ST)

November 25, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The presidential advisor, Mustafa Osman Ismail has denied any knowledge of the ruling party of an agreement with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to call the Abyei experts' committee to a hearing at the Security Council.

Minister for presidential affairs for the government of South Sudan, Luka Biong Deng, said in press statements that Sudan's First Vice President and Ban Ki-Moon agreed during a visit to the US, to organise a hearing for the members of Abyei Boundary Commission before the UN Security Council.

The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) secretary for political affairs, Mustafa Osman Ismail, criticized statements attributed to the First Vice-President and

chairman of Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Salva Kiir Mayardit, regarding this step which was published in some Khartoum newspapers.

He also condemned some SPLM leaders for using the media to arouse the issues regarding the peace agreement, the official SUNA reported.

Ismail further said "We do not have any knowledge of what was attributed to Salva Kiir regarding his agreement with the UN secretary-general to call the Abyei experts' committee. However, we only heard of this as we heard before from the media that Abyei file would be handed over to US since the beginning of the current crisis.

He added that "We also heard about threats of SPLM plan (B) which we do not know its details"

The presidential advisor said such issues should be on the table of negotiations instead of raising it through the press. He added "Such behaviour intrigues us and questions the seriousness of these statements."

The SPLM suspended its participation in the government of National Unity on October 13, 2007 to protest the ill implementation of the CPA by its partner in peace the National Congress Party.

(ST)

NCP Says Committed to Reconciliation Deal with the Opposition (Sudan Vision)

Sudan's ruling party renewed its commitment to a political reconciliation deal signed with an opposition umbrella in June 2005. Mustafa Osman Ismail, the presidential advisor and leading member in the ruling National Congress Party, reiterated the commitment of the National Congress Party (NCP) to Cairo Agreement signed with the Democratic National Alliance (NDA) in Cairo on June 18, 2005.

He also welcomed the decision of Mohamed Osman al Mirghani, Chairman of the NDA and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), to return home, early next year.

Since the signing of Cairo agreement, al-Mirghani declines invitations by the NCP to return to Sudan. He blames the NCP of non-implementation of Cairo agreement. With the perspective of the up coming elections, Bashir' party exerts efforts to convince al-Mirghani to join an eventual tripartite alliance together with the SPLM.

Mustafa has pointed out in press statements that the President al-Bashir has repeatedly valued the efforts exerted by al-Mirghani for the realization of national concordance and his rejection of all forms of foreign intervention into the domestic affairs.

In the past, al-Mirghani supported NCP rejection of the deployment of international peacekeeping force in the war-torn region of Darfur.

Ismail pointed out to patriotic and wise stands adopted by the DUP under the leadership of Mirghani.

He said his party has good contacts with the DUP and that the participation of the representatives of the party in the Second General Conference of the NCP has great effects and was warmly welcomed by the leadership of the National Congress party.

These statements come one day after al-Bashir public criticisms to al-Mirghani's invitation for the DUP leadership to meet in Cairo. Bashir said holding such meeting in Egypt is unjustified because the DUP leader can convene this meeting in Khartoum.

A British Female Teacher in Khartoum Arrested for Insulting Prophet Mohammed PBU (SMC)

Sunday 25 November 2007, Khartoum attorney office opens a claim under article 125 of the criminal law (insult of faith and religions) against a British national female teacher named Julian working for unruly school in Khartoum. Head of the attorney offices Mutusim Abdallah told (*smc*) that legal arrangements are under way to issue warrant of arrest against the suspect upon a complaint presented by the ministry of education. Abdallah said the suspect teacher printed the name of Prophet Mohammed PBUH on a doll in a shape of bear. Then she wrote letters to student guardians telling them that they should receive a doll on which the name Mohamed is printed. However this event was met with wide condemnation by guardians of the students.

Criminal Investigation Offices in North and South Launch Collection of illegal Arms (SMC)

Sunday 25 November 2007, Police forces have launched collection of illegal arms in northern and southern states. Head of criminal investigation department Gen Abdeen Al Tahir told (*smc*) that campaign targeted Nhar Al Neei, Kassala and Cadarif in the north, the Equatoria and Upper Nile in the south. Gen Al Tahir said the campaign was launched in collaboration with criminal investigation offices in the south. As consequence huge illegal arms were collected.

International day to campaign against VAW – Ministry of Justice and UNMIS Human Rights (Khartoum Monitor)

The Ministry of Justice Unit of Violence against Women (VAW) in collaboration with the human rights unit of the UNMIS yesterday had its open day of the international campaign against the persistence of VAW.

The campaign at al Zubeir International Hall in Khartoum is being carried out under the theme “Toward a Joint Social Struggle Opposed to Violence against Women”.

State vows to take Abyei oil wells if Kiir, Bashir fail to resolve border impasse, New twist in Abyei row as Unity State claims oil wells (The Citizen)

Unity State is claiming some oil wells in Abyei area, saying that the GoNU annexed the oil wells and added them to the contested neighboring region.

The Border Adviser to the Unity State's Governor told the Citizen on Friday that the State is seeking a fast resolution of the conflict surrounding Abyei area as part of efforts by Unity to reclaim the annexed areas.

[SPLM rejects ruling party's proposal on Abyei](#)

(ST), November 25, 2007 (JUBA) — The southern ex-rebel group Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) said it will not accept the proposals put forward by Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) on the disputed oil rich region of Abyei.

Riek Machar, Vice President of the government of south Sudan (GOSS) told Miraya FM radio that the NCP wants to acquire the oil rich parts of Abyei and leave the rest to the South.

Last week Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said that the NCP is committed to the Abyei Protocol only with the border of 1905. He further said the government is not concerned with Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) report and that the latter is of no value to them.

On 11 October, the SPLM suspended its participation in the government of national unity to protest against the delay in the implementation of the 2005 peace deal.

"They [NCP] want to implement the Abyei protocol minus the areas that have oil because they want to carve them out of south Sudan" he added.

A report issued by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) said that the security situation in Abyei remains unpredictable as the two peace partners continue to exchange accusations over military build up in the region.

The SPLM signed a peace deal in January 2005 with the government of the National Congress Party in January 2005 ending two decades of civil war in Southern Sudan. The peace deal made the SPLM, the ruling party in the south and the NCP the ruling party in the north.

In 2011, southerners will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether they want to be independent or remain part of Sudan.

(ST)

[US withholding info on Darfur crimes to protect IDP camps: report](#)

(ST), November 25, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The US administration has compiled extensive evidence against senior Sudanese officials implicating them in the Darfur war crimes according to a report released by 'ENOUGH' group last week.

The report named 'A Strategy for Success in Sirte' was prepared by Colin Thomas-Jensen, Africa Advocacy and Research Manager at the International Crisis Group and John Prendergast, director of African affairs for the National Security Council during the Clinton administration.

"U.S. intelligence services are closely monitoring communications within Sudan, listening to conversations between Sudanese officials and others that could implicate them in crimes committed in Darfur" according to the report.

An unidentified senior US official was quoted in the report telling 'ENOUGH' earlier this year that "the Bush administration has files that outline the involvement of many senior regime officials in pursuing a policy of scorched earth ethnic cleansing in Darfur".

ENOUGH, a joint project of Crisis Group and the Center for American Progress, with the aim of helping to bring an end to the crimes against humanity being perpetrated in Darfur, northern Uganda and eastern Congo, and to prevent future mass atrocities.

The UN Security Council referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in March 2005. The US bent down to pressure and abstained from voting after fierce resistance.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region in early May.

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

The US official said that the Bush Administration has decided not to hand over the evidence to the ICC saying that "the prospect of indictment and arrest could force the regime into "survival mode" and cause it to attack the camps for displaced persons in Darfur".

But Prendergast and Thomas-Jensen disagreed saying that attacks by Khartoum on Darfur refugee camps have continued.

The report called on the US administration and other governments to assist the ICC in its investigations.

Last month Salah Gosh, the head of Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Service, told the Al-Ahdath daily that the cooperation with the US "helped avert devastating measures [by US administration] against Sudan".

Last May the US president George Bush ordered stiffened sanctions on Sudan that will bar 31 companies controlled by the government from doing business in the U.S. financial system as well as sanctions on four Sudanese individuals, including two senior Sudanese officials and a rebel leader suspected of involvement in the Darfur violence.

International experts estimate some 200,000 have died and over 2 million have been driven from their homes during 4-1/2 years of fighting in Darfur. Sudan puts the death toll from the conflict at just 9,000.

(ST)

GoSS

Kiir: Money from the north to buy votes for unity (Rai AlShaab)

The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir has yesterday accused some circles of bringing billions of pounds from the north to south Sudan in order to influence the southern Sudanese to vote for unity with the north.

Darfur

Chad blames Sudan after rebel attack on aid workers (ST)

November 25, 2007 (N'DJAMENA) — The Chadian government blamed Sudan on Sunday after armed rebels and unidentified gunmen entered at least two towns in eastern Chad at the weekend and beat two foreign aid workers.

Leaders of Chad's two biggest rebel movements, the Union of Forces for Democracy & Development (UFDD) and the Assembly of Forces for Change (RFC), said on Friday they would break a ceasefire from Sunday. A few hours later, on Saturday, several UFDD vehicles entered the town of Hadjer Hadid, 70 km (44 miles) east of the city of Abeche, triggering a security alert and prompting French and Chadian helicopters to take off in vain pursuit.

"Their forces crossed the Chad-Sudan border to attack gendarmes tasked with protecting refugee camps in several small border settlements, including Hadjer Hadid," Communication Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said in a statement.

"Chad places responsibility on Sudan, which has an obligation to contain armed elements of all the signatories to the Sirte accord until the implementation of the central clause of the accord, which is ... disarmament," he said.

After the Libyan-backed peace deal was signed a month ago, speculation grew last week that rebels might be preparing fresh attacks when the president cancelled a high-profile official visit to the United States at less than 48 hours' notice.

French forces based in Abeche stepped up security at the airport after the attack, aid workers in the city said.

Humanitarian work was suspended until further notice at two refugee camps near Hadjer Hadid, a U.N. official in Abeche said.

"We are still on alert as the situation is not clear," said the official, who declined to be identified.

Aid workers are helping hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and Chadians in the east of oil-producing Chad, which has been drawn into sporadic violence stemming from the conflict in Darfur and armed rebellion against Deby's 17-year-old rule.

Armed attackers in military fatigues overran an aid compound late on Saturday in the small town of Kou Kou Angarana, 180 km (110 miles) southwest of Abeche, humanitarian staff said.

The gunmen, whose identity was unclear, used the butt of a rifle to beat two foreign aid workers for the French branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres and Oxfam International and a Chadian security guard was hit in the leg by a bullet, they said.

Most aid workers there pulled back to the nearby town of Goz Beida, and would decide on any broader evacuation on Monday.

The unrest underlined deteriorating security in the area where European Union peacekeepers hope to start deploying in the next few weeks to complement a hybrid U.N./African force planned for Sudan's violent Darfur region, over Chad's eastern frontier.

(Material from Reuters)

Three million square meters in Nyala for the hybrid (Alkhartoum)

The Government of South Darfur and the UN have yesterday signed an agreement by which the Government has allocated three million square meters for UNAMID and the hybrid force.

Sudanese police says no planned attack on Darfur camp (ST)

November 25, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The South Darfur State police has denied report that it intends to use force to seize illegal arms from Darfur displaced in Kalma camp.

Reuters published on November 22, a notice addressed by south Darfur police to the African Union sector commander in the area giving Kalma residents three days from Wednesday to hand in weapons kept inside the camp.

The police commander, Maj-Gen Omar Mohamed Ali, denied that the police or any other security body intended to storm the camp.

Ali, told al-Ray Alaam that what was happening inside the camp was the result of internal conflicts between supporters of Darfur rebel movements.

Some of the camp's 90,000 residents have already started to build road blocks to obstruct searches of the huge camp outside south Darfur's capital Nyala, Reuters reported.

Following the wide distribution of notice in the camp, the spokesperson of Darfur IDPs, Hussein Abusharati, accused the Sudanese authorities of planning to dismantle the camps before the deployment of the AU-UN troops in the region.

(ST)

Darfur rebels tell China peacekeepers to go home (AFP)

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: November 25, 2007, by Mohamed Hasni, KHARTOUM, Nov 25, 2007 (AFP) - **Darfur** rebels on Sunday said freshly deployed Chinese peacekeepers were not welcome and as Khartoum's "allies" in **Sudan's** war-ravaged western region threatened they were not immune from attack.

China, the biggest buyer of **Sudan's** oil and which sells the country weapons, has been accused of shielding Khartoum -- blamed for fanning the violence in **Darfur** -- from international sanctions.

"Our position is clear, the Chinese are not here for peace and they must leave immediately," Justice and Equality Movement commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Asher told AFP by telephone one day after Chinese engineers arrived in **Darfur**.

"Otherwise, we will consider the Chinese soldiers as part of the government forces and we will act accordingly," said Asher, who is also a brother of JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim.

The 135 Chinese arrived as part of the vanguard of a joint African Union-UN peacekeeping mission set to take over from poorly equipped African troops next year. A total of 315 Chinese engineers are expected in **Darfur** by next month.

"China is complicit in the genocide being carried out in **Darfur** and the Chinese are here to protect their oil interests in Kordofan," a region to the east of **Darfur** where JEM recently carried out an attack on an oil installation.

In the attack, JEM rebels kidnapped five oil workers from the facility run by the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company, a consortium involving China's CNPC, India's ONGC, Malaysia's Petronas and state-owned Sudapet.

"China is the biggest weapons supplier to the **Sudanese** regime and the weapons that we have captured in large quantities prove this. China supports Khartoum at the United Nations and its presence in **Darfur** can be considered an attempt to colonise our region," Asher said.

The UN said that the Chinese engineers will build roads and bridges, dig wells, and deploy a medical team.

The 26,000-strong hybrid force is due to begin peacekeeping operations in **Darfur** next year, tasked with ending nearly five years of bloodshed.

The force of mainly Africans will replace an under-funded and ill-equipped 7,000-strong African Union force that has served since 2004.

Speaking to AFP by telephone from Juba, the capital of semi-autonomous south **Sudan**, a spokesman for 10 **Darfur** rebel factions from the **Sudan** Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) also threatened the Chinese.

"Sending any international troops to **Darfur** without our agreement will complicate the security situation in the region," said Issam al-Haj.

"The Chinese arrival in **Darfur** is part of the agenda of the (main ruling) National Congress party and not to protect civilians. We consider them forces supporting the government troops and for us they will not be immune," he said.

The JEM warned it would attack foreign oil companies and target Chinese firms in particular because they supply weapons to Khartoum, before the abduction on October 23 in Kordofan.

Since February 2003, more than 200,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and disease in **Darfur** region, while 2.2 million others have been left homeless.

The **Sudanese** government, while objecting to troops from Nepal, Scandinavia and Thailand, has welcomed the Chinese mission to **Darfur**.

Darfur and Agwai's many challenges

Tunji Ajibade, Moments when Nigeria and Nigerians set new records are rare and far between; and not often are they for the right reasons. By being the head of a 26,000 peacekeeping force, a Nigerian, Lt. Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, is about to set a new record in United Nations' history as the man who leads the largest body of troops that goes by the name 'peacekeepers.' However, with so much that is expected of the UN-Africa Union hybrid troops that moved into Darfur in October to keep the peace, the notes coming from the head of that contingent does not give much cause for cheers. That is because Gen. Agwai is already sounding cautious. As a matter of fact, the situation on ground in Darfur is no bread and butter.

Cautious optimism on the part of those who have high expectations of his troops as soon as they land in Darfur, which has witnessed four years of war, had been what Agwai advised. "We are not going there to fight the war. We are not there to compel anybody. We are there to work with the people of Sudan," he had said. By this, he wanted it known beforehand the limitations of his troops and whom to blame in the event that he failed to get the cooperation of the people, the rebels as well as the government of Sudan in order to keep the peace. And he had reasons to take this step even before he stepped into the conflict zone.

First, the Darfur problem is almost intractable. In a war where the fighters are so fragmented that leadership is hardly discernible, talking peace or holding any group that breaks the peace after agreements have been reached accountable becomes a problem. At present, there are more than a dozen rebel groups operating in Darfur, the size of France. Worse still, right from the outset when rebels in this black populated part of Sudan took to arms in protest against some government policies, Khartoum had simply sent Arab militias after them. Then followed a long period of denial in

which the Omar Bashir government in Khartoum claimed it neither encouraged the Arab militias nor had any control over them.

Meanwhile, killings, maiming and looting continued until a humanitarian crisis was declared to be in the making in that region. While the United States, for instance, insisted that genocide was what was taking place under the roof of Bashir's government, the latter claimed nothing of such went on in his territory. When the observers in Darfur put death toll at over 200,000, Khartoum said it was just 9,000. Furthermore, and for so long, Khartoum chose to foot-drag, refusing to allow UN troops in its territory to stem the large scale killings going on in Darfur. All that meant one thing: With a government that is so reluctant to stop the civil war or appears to have its own game plan, tough times await Agwai's peace keepers.

Already, (while on an official visit to Rome), Bashir had threatened harsh punishments for any rebel group that fails to fall in line with agreements reached at the October next round of peace talks. Talk of a bargainer threatening the other party in order to have his way.

But attempts to bring peace into Darfur did not just start. The current troops are not the first to have headed for that crisis-ridden part of Sudan. The AU troop is still on ground playing the role of observers. From what has transpired, however, it is clear that the original objective has not been achieved, hence the need to replace it with a peacekeeping mission under Agwai. This mission has no mandate to engage in fighting or disarming any group that chooses to fight. It can only keep the peace that is there to keep. Peace talks had also taken place. In 2006, Khartoum and one rebel faction struck a peace deal. But this, too, has failed, as it did not put an end to the bloodshed in that western part of Sudan.

Despite this, activists, aid workers and other humanitarian organisations have not given up on their call for the world to take more notice and do something concrete about the crisis in Darfur. President George Bush had responded over time, holding Khartoum responsible and calling for sanctions if the Bashir government fails to put an end to the killings in Darfur. China, a major influence on Khartoum and which enjoys excellent relations with Bashir, last year, gave the Sudanese leader a state reception worthy of a most honoured friend in China. That was different from the occasion when that Asian country assembled several African leaders and offered them juicy carrots to mark a rejuvenated China-Africa relations. Nothing goes for nothing, however.

Sudan as well as the rest of Africa has resources that Chinese industries need to keep their machines running. With the good working relation it has with Khartoum, China is thought capable of influencing Bashir to stop the bloodshed in his domain. But America has been the contact man for activists on Darfur. America also enjoys good diplomatic relations with China at present and that has been exploited by the US to get it to speak into relevant ears in Khartoum. Nigeria, as well as the AU in general, has also played a role in the effort to bring peace to Darfur.

When the UN Chief, Ban Ki-moon visited Darfur earlier in September, he said he was 'shocked and humbled' by the horrible condition of the people that he found in a camp with tens of thousands of refugees. The total figure of people displaced by the war has been put at 20 million. That's a situation the world body's chief surely wanted to see come to an end. But even Ban admitted that such is possible only if the Sudanese themselves cooperate; and that is why he said that the UN troops cannot be effective unless 'there is a peace to keep.'

That is the reality and the challenges that General Agwai and his men face. While making the extent to which his men could go known recently, the general had stated that finding peace in Darfur will take time, noting in the same stride that obstacles to his mission include poor infrastructure. Outsiders cannot give peace that the people concerned do not want. For, far above the noise that too many rebel groups constitute obstacle to peace in Darfur, the government in Khartoum holds the ace. Ajibade, an author, wrote from Wuse 2, Abuja.