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UN/ Agencies

Government responds to Pronk's accusations

(*AllIntibaha*) Speaking to a German newspaper recently, SRSG Pronk has renewed accusations that the Sudan government continues to violate the Darfur Peace Agreement by continuing to bomb villages.

But government has downplayed Mr. Pronk's statements and has described these as the desperate statements of someone whose diplomatic mission has come to a bad ending.

Foreign ministry spokesperson, Ambassador Ali el-Sadig, pointed out that the SRSG was expelled from the country after failing to improve relations between Sudan and the UN and failing to remain impartial with regards Sudan's internal affairs.

Darfur humanitarian situation bleakest since conflict began: UN

(*AFP* – 27th Nov. **Khrt.**) More people have fled their homes within Sudan's Darfur region than at any time since the conflict started there nearly four years ago, said the UN in a report on the worsening humanitarian crisis.

"The number of IDPs (internally displaced people) has reached nearly two million, the highest level since the conflict started in 2003 and an increase of some 125,000 since the July 1 report," said a summary of the report.

The report released on Monday reviews the humanitarian situation in Sudan's western region of Darfur covering the months of July, August and September.

"Another two million Darfurians directly affected by the ongoing crisis are in need of humanitarian aid, again the highest number ever since the beginning of the current crisis," the report added.

The United Nations, which runs the largest humanitarian operation in Sudan, also said it was being increasingly obstructed in its relief efforts.

"On 1 October 2006, UN accessibility in Darfur plummeted to 64 percent, the lowest access rate since April 2004, with all three states equally affected," it said, referring to the Northern, Western and Southern states which make up the region.

The UN report said that 21 humanitarian vehicles and 31 convoys had been ambushed and looted between July and September. The attacks had resulted in the death of six AU observers.

"Some 13,400 national and international aid workers from 80 NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Societies and 13 UN agencies continue to support the affected populations in Darfur," the UN said.

Sudanese mine detection dog handler to be accredited to international standards

(*Khartoum Monitor*) UN Mine Action Office has announced that a first Sudanese Mine Detection Dog Handler will be granted international accreditation.

Mohamed Hamid (29) from Khartoum joined Mechem, a South African commercial demining firm in July 2005 as a mechanic assistant in Kadugli, Nuba Mountains and then progressed to become an interpreter, Kennel Hand and Dog Handlers' Assistant in October 2005.

With a good record and the interest he showed in handling mine detection dogs, Mohamed was offered a Basic Dog Handlers' Course which he did in his spare time until September 2006 when he successfully completed the training. He then passed a Mine Detection Dog accreditation to be a qualified Mine Detection Dog Handler and passed the UNMAO accreditation evaluation in 16th November this year thus becoming the first Sudanese Mine Detection Dog Handler.

Secretary-General Annan warns rebels against forced takeover of N'Djamena

(AlAyaam) Secretary-General Annan has expressed concern over the developments in Chad and was warned Chadian rebels against taking over the capital by force.

Mr. Annan called for an immediate ceasefire between the two parties and for a political settlement and national reconciliation.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Sudan rejects UN Command of Darfur peacekeeping force*

(Bloomberg news – 27th Nov. Khrt.) Sudanese President Omar Hassan al- Bashir today rejected a proposal for the United Nations to assume joint command over a peacekeeping force in Darfur and said he would only accept UN assistance to African Union troops.

Addressing an international media conference in Khartoum on Monday, al-Bashir said any peacekeeping force should have African troops and be under African command. The UN and the AU have proposed creating a hybrid force of about 20,000 soldiers and police that would operate under joint AU-UN leadership.

"There is no talk about accepting the hybrid force because we have rejected it in principle," Bashir said in Khartoum. "Troops in Darfur should be part of the AU and under command of the AU."

Bashir said the Western media exaggerated the Darfur conflict, and he declared that no more than 9,000 people had died in the violence, a figure that is 1,000 less than he cited at a Sept. 25 press conference. The UN says that as many as 200,000 people have died in Darfur since the war erupted in February 2003 and that the region is the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"UN troops have never come to Africa and played a positive role," Bashir said. "Sudan should not be the first African country to be re-colonized," he said later.

"The focus should be on implementing the agreement, and we do not accept the referral of the AU mission to UN troops," he said.

He added: "After the signing of the Abuja Agreement it was expected that the focus would be on supporting and implementing the agreement and other parties joining the agreement. But

talk immediately started on replacing the AU troops in Darfur with UN troops, and it became obvious to us that the aim was not for peace but another agenda on this issue, and if the aim was for peace in Darfur, we have already signed the agreement."

** More details on the press conference in separate attachment*

SPLA urges government to allow UN peacekeepers into Darfur

(AlAyaam) The SPLM has urged the government to review its rejection of the decision to reject the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

SPLM Secretary-General, Pagan Amoum, told Radio Sawa that the deployment of international forces to Darfur will help protect the civilian population and facilitate the flow of relief.

Russia rejects deployment of international troops in Darfur

(SudanTribune.com – 27th Nov. **Damascus**) Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltanov said in an interview to the official SUNA during his two-day-visit to Damascus that Resolution 1706 or any intention for foreign military intervention in Darfur region will not serve Darfur, Sudan or the region in general.

He explained that armed foreign presence in Darfur may aggravate the conflict as what happened in Iraq and Afghanistan. In this connection, he called on the African Union's countries to live up to their responsibilities by effective contributions to solving Darfur crisis.

Saltanov affirmed his country's support to the efforts of the Sudanese government to solve the crisis internally or in the African context, especially after the government's success in signing of the Abuja Agreement.

US, Chinese leaders discuss North Korea, Darfur

(AFP – 27th Nov. **Tallinn**) US President George W. Bush held talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao on North Korea's nuclear program and developments in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, a White House spokesman said.

Bush spoke with Hu during his flight to the Baltics, where the US president will visit Estonia and attend a NATO summit in neighbouring Latvia.

Bush asked for "continued Chinese leadership on various international issues such as the situation in North Korea and Darfur," said the spokesman, Gordon Johndroe, who had arrived in the Estonian capital Tallinn ahead of Bush.

"The two presidents reviewed their good meeting in Hanoi on the margins of the APEC summit and agreed that US-China cooperation is moving forward well, to the benefit of both the American and Chinese people," he said.

The leaders held talks on November 19 on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Vietnam.

GoNU

Police to enhance security in the capital

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Directorate-General for Police has called upon the relevant parties to lay down the necessary plans to enhance security and stability and prevent a repeat of the security problems Khartoum State has recently witnessed.

At a meeting chaired by the interior minister, the leadership council underlined the need to introduce new strategies that will meet the challenges of the time with regards to enhancing security.

The meeting also called for increased police patrols in certain areas.

SPLM forms committee to investigate recent Khartoum killings

(*AlAdhwaa*) State Minister Tilara Deng says the SPLA has formed a committee to carry out internal investigations within its forces on the recent killing of police officers in a number of areas in Khartoum.

The state minister at the Presidency said that the committee will be led by Elias Waya, the head of the Technical Committee of the Joint Defence Board and asked the Police to form a team to investigate the facts from within the police.

State Minister Tilara vowed that SPLA elements found to have been involved in the incident will be brought to account.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

SPLA patrol clashes with pro-government militia in Upper Nile State

(*Sudan Tribune; AlAdhwaa*) SPLA forces patrolling southern parts of Malakal, Upper Nile State, were attacked yesterday by pro-government militias led by Maj. Gen. Gabriel Tangnying.

AlAdhwaa quotes Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajiang, a member of the JDB, as saying that casualty figures are not immediately available. He also ruled out a SAF involvement in the issue.

Senior state officials have declined to comment on the situation when approached by the *Suadn Tribune* but eye-witnesses said that these militias took positions late in the day around the SPLA camps situated in southern Malakal

Bill on development fund for southern Sudan and war affected areas replaced

(*The Citizen*) Parliament in its session yesterday, chaired by Deputy Speaker Atem Garang, approved the report of the Economic Affairs Committee withdrawal of the bill concerning the Fund for Development of South Sudan and war affected areas 2006.

The bill, which was tabled before parliament on November 13, 2006, had not yet passed, but was intended to argue the 2006 South Sudan and war affected areas Development Fund Act.

Having studied the 2006 bill, the Economic Affairs Committee concluded that the 2002 act establishing the fund had been superseded by the 2005 Interim National Constitution and the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) .the wealth sharing protocol of the later provides for all measures necessary to finance reconstruction in South Sudan.

Darfur

AU denounces SLA-Minnawi's obstruction against its flights in Darfur*

(*SudanTribune.com* – 27th Nov. **Khrt.**) The African Union mission in Sudan denounced repeated obstruction exerted by a former Darfur rebel group in South Darfur against the flights of the African peacekeeping force.

In a press statement, the AMIS Force Commander Major-General Luke Aprezi strongly condemned the restrictions on AMIS flights by the SLA Minawi Faction in the Muhajeria locality in South Darfur.

The AU force commander urged the leadership of the SLA/Minawi Faction in Muhajeria to reign in their combatants in order to ensure that these acts against AMIS flights are not repeated again “especially at this point when implementation of the DPA should be proceeding unhindered”.

According to the AU, on 24 November, 2006 a medical mission was urgently dispatched to Muhajeria to evacuate an AMIS military personnel who was seriously ill, but Minawi troops combatants prevented the flight from taking off claiming that they were not aware of its schedule before its landing. Due to the deteriorating state of the patient however, the flight was allowed to leave.

** Full text of the African Union statement in separate attachment*

Darfur former rebel says govt rearming militia

(*Reuters* – 27th Nov. **Khrt.**) Former Darfur rebel turned presidential adviser Minni Arcua Minnawi on Monday accused the Sudanese government of rearming and mobilising the feared Janjaweed militia, violating a peace deal signed in May.

He also urged the international community to take action rather than just talk about the Darfur conflict, which has killed 200,000 and driven 2.5 million people from their homes in the vast region in the west of Sudan.

"Everybody knows that the government is rearming the Janjaweed," Minnawi said in an interview. "Absolutely, it is proven and I am sure that it is true," he said.

Mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in Darfur in early 2003, accusing central government of marginalising the remote west. Khartoum mobilised tribal militias to quell the revolt.

Those militias stand accused of a campaign of rape, murder and pillage which Washington calls genocide. Khartoum denies genocide and any links to the Janjaweed, calling them bandits.

Minnawi said he had told President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to stop mobilising the Janjaweed, a term loosely derived from the Arabic for "devils on horseback".

"This is clear, Janjaweed are activating even more than before," he said. "It is a violation."

Minnawi said the NRF needed to be condemned as well as the government. Sitting in his small office in an annexe to the Republican Palace, Minnawi also said the international community, including the United Nations and the African Union who witnessed the May peace accord, needed to act.

"Condemnation is not enough. They know what they should do," he said. "They are just talking, talking, talking, without anything (else) — they have to take action."

32 civilians killed in rebel attack on Sharif and Abu-Jabra oilfields

(*AlRai AlAam et al*) Casualty figures of the recent NRF attack on the oilfields in Sharif and Abu-Jabra stand at 32 civilians dead, according to the Sudan Media Centre quoting local chiefs.

But a spokesperson for the SAF told reuters that there was no major damage on Abu-Jabra and that looting did take place to a few houses in the vicinity. The UN says it has reports that the rebels have left the Abu-Jabra area.

Meanwhile local activists in the Abu-Jabra and Sharif areas report that about 700 civilians in the area have formed poses on horseback and are heading to Abu-Jabra with another 600 headed towards Mujlad in pursuit of the NRF.

The SAF also reports of clashes with NRF pockets in the area but say the SAF is now totally in control of Sharif and Abu-Jabra.

Salim Ahmed Salim in Sudan in bid to widen participation base for the DPA

(*AlRai AlAam*) Salim Ahmed Salim met separately yesterday with President Bashir and Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa.

African Union spokesperson Nouraldean el-Mazni said that the talks with President Bashir are proceeding towards bridging the views between government and the non-signatories.

Editorials/ Commentaries

Mayardit must be selective on his visits

(*Sudan Tribune editorial*) The editorial highlights the recent visit by Vice-President Salva Kiir to Cairo where he held talks with senior government officials including President Mubarak and received pledges of assistance to the tune of 142 million Egyptian pounds from the Egyptian government for southern Sudan.

The paper says this, and other overtures, have proven that southern Sudan has done all it can to harmonize the atmosphere between Cairo and southern Sudan following last year's incidents during which many Sudanese were killed in Cairo.

The paper points out that southern Sudan now needs more actions than words and that it is now up to the Egyptian government to show their support for the existence of a united Sudan.