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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN mission condemns attack on African force in Sudan's Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) — The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Sunday strongly condemned an attack by unidentified militants on a position of the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in Darfur.

"UNMIS is shocked at the unprecedented scale of the attack," the UNMIS said in a statement, terming the attack as "unprovoked and barbaric."

On Saturday evening, a large number of unidentified armed persons carried out an attack on a position of the AU peacekeeping force at Haskanita in South Darfur State, killing more than 10 peacekeepers and wounding seven others.

In addition, a number of AU peacekeepers have been reported missing and additionally equipment, vehicles and property of the peacekeeping force have also been vandalized or looted.

"UNMIS expresses its condolences to the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the families of the soldiers who lost their lives while carrying out their noble duty in support of the people of Darfur, and wishes speedy recovery to those who were wounded," the statement added.

The attack took place at a time when the international community, including the AU and the UN, is exerting maximum effort to resume peace talks Darfur in Libya on October 27 and to deploy the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur to help put an end to the conflict.

UNMIS reiterated that "attacks on AMIS constitute a serious violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the AU.

It urged all concerned to assist in identifying the perpetrators so they could be held accountable without delay.

Ban Ki-moon condemns attack on AU peacekeepers in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) — Condemning in the strongest possible terms the recent attack in Haskanita, South Darfur, which killed some 10 African Union (AU) peacekeepers, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called for those responsible to be brought to justice for the "outrageous" act.

According to AU reports, personnel from the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) have also been wounded and many are missing following yesterday's "shocking and brutal assault," Mr. Ban said in a statement.

He offered his condolences to the families of those who were killed, and called "on all parties to recommit as a matter of the highest priority to a peaceful resolution to the conflict as the Government and rebel movements prepare for peace talks in Libya on 27 October and as the African Union and United Nations prepare to deploy a joint peace operation in Darfur."

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) also decried the incident, which it characterized as "unprovoked and barbaric," by an armed group.

"UNMIS is shocked at the unprecedented scale of the attack," it noted in a statement issued today.

The Mission also reiterated that "attacks on AMIS constitute a serious violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union and urges all concerned to assist in identifying the perpetrators so they could be held accountable without delay."

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Joint Miseriya-Nuba delegation to pay tribute to families of victims, committee to investigate in clashes between two tribes in South Kordofan, military reinforcements to maintain security

(AlAyam)--19 people have been killed and 9 others injured in yesterday clashes between the Miseriya and Nuba in South Kordofan. The Commissioner of Lagawa said the area has witnessed stability after the arrival of a police force. The Lagawa Locality (County) has sent a delegation from the Miseriya and Nuba traditional chiefs to pay condolences to the families of the victims. Authorities say the incident will be investigated by a special committee.

President Bashir manages to resolve conflict between SPLM and police in Khartoum

(AlSudani)-- President al Bashir managed yesterday to suggest a solution for the conflict between the SPLM and the Ministry of Interior following the police raid on SPLM offices searching for unauthorized arms. Al Bashir recommended that while trying to ensure security in Khartoum, police authorities must respect the legal and constitutional rights of the political parties.

Following request from Eastern Front: ICC agrees to consider cases of those killed during Port Sudan events

(AlAyam)-- The ICC has agreed to look into the cases of those killed during the events in Port Sudan. According to reports the ICC received a request to this effect from the Eastern Front.

GoSS

No Official Notification on Excluding South Sudan from US Sanctions, Official

(Al Rai Alam, SMC)_The Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the reported lifting of American sanctions on South Sudan as the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, Ali al-Sadig stated that the sanctions should have been lifted from the whole of Sudan according to the recent American pledges. He indicated that to date they have not received any official intimation regarding the lifting of American sanctions on southern Sudan.

Al-Sadig said that there is presently no difference between Sudan and the UN over the hybrid operation, citing the statements of the AU chief, Alpha Omar Konare, at the New York meetings and the AU commitment to the terms of reference agreed upon.

"Some countries interpret the provisions pursuant to their own interests so as to enforce their own agendas, though now the African presence in the hybrid operation is generally accepted," Al-Sadig said.

Meanwhile, Sudan's envoy to the UN, Ambassador Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Halim, stated that the deployment of the African peacekeepers in Darfur will be delayed because of a dispute over the nationalities of the troops, pointing out that UN peacekeeping operation administration has previously rejected proposals from several countries wishing to send troops to Darfur. He added that the commander of the UN peacekeeping forces last week turned down a proposal from Egypt to deploy 3,000 troops in Darfur arguing that they do not conform to international standards for peacekeeping operations. He said that, during his talks with the UNSG Ban Ki-moon, the Foreign Minister Lam Akol has stressed the need for the UN to accept the participation of a number of African troops rejected for their non-conformity to international standards on the basis of the spirit of Resolution 1769 and the Addis Ababa terms of reference.

To that effect, US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, continues his visit to Sudan for the purpose of surveying progress of peace in Darfur and implementation of the Naivasha agreement.

SPLM Briefs Natsios on Abyei Joint Committee Formation

(Sudan Vision Dilay)- The FVP of the Republic and the President of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, underlined the International Community role in resolving the issues disputed between NCP and SPLM. Following his talks with the American Envoy for Darfur, Andrew Natsios, who is currently touring South Sudan, Kiir noted that GoSS would utilize the initiative of Abyei Experts Panel as a basis for the settlement of those disputed items.

GoSS VP, Riek Machar, told Sudan Vision that his Government discussed with Natsios implementation progress in respect of DDR, security arrangements and transparency with regard to oil accounts.

According to Machar, GoSS has highlighted the American Envoy on the Abyei Joint Committee set up and obstacles facing it, such as GoNU objection to fund the Committee apart from transportation and accommodation facilities for the whole team, in addition to expenditure on its own representatives.

Respecting the projected National Population Census, GoSS VP conveyed to Natsios that while 90% of North Sudan has been surveyed, only 40% of the Southern region has been covered as the Federal Government did not secure sufficient budget for the Census Commission. GoSS also discussed with Natsios, the Election Act and obstacles facing the Border Demarcation Committee.

The American Diplomat was also briefed on SPLM initiative respecting the unification of Darfur Movements including Machar's visit to SLA Founder, Abdalwahid Nour, in Paris in that respect.

He further disclosed that the Swiss University of Pal has furnished GoSS with a map for South Sudan that embraces Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, Abyei areas and parts of Darfur, without charting demarcation lines between North and South Sudan on the said map.

He referred to GoSS resolution directing the formation of a committee for drawing a map for the Southern Sudan.

In a related development, South Sudan Regional Parliament Speaker announced the establishment of a unified platform for monitoring CPA implementation progress, particularly the troop's redeployment, DDR Commission activities, border demarcation and oil revenue appropriations.

Corrupt practices are rampant in South Sudan - official

(Sudan Tribune) — The Chairperson of Anti-corruption Commission, Dr. Pauline Riek, presented recently a report on her visit to the ten states of southern Sudan to the participants of states consultative planning and budgeting workshop, indicating that some senior government officials are milking GoSS' cows outside the fence.

The following are some excerpts from her speech:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD EVENING!

Welcome to the first of its kind, the workshop for financial leaders at the state levels of the government of southern Sudan.

I the commissioner for Anti-Corruption in the new government of southern Sudan had the opportunity of visiting the ten states and I met most of you. So I warmly welcome you to Juba and hope that you will use this opportunity to express your aspirations, fears, constraints and to make constructive suggestions on the way forwards.

My visit to the ten states was educational and it gave me a better understanding of your challenges, constraints and the general weakness of financial management in government of southern Sudan (GoSS) and across the nation of southern Sudan.

I also witnessed disunity, tribalism, nepotism, haste towards misused and abuse of official powers of some of our leaders, politicians and administrators for their private benefits.

I heard of the area in which officials improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves together with those close to them, often stealing or using funds meant for the public good.

I was told of bribery and extortion of officials who are bribed by contractors who deliver inferior quality services at supervision of officials who receive 10% of the contract value then look in opposite direction despite the fact that the work was done shortly, and government officials demanding payment in return for services they have failed to do as government employees.

I was also told that some officials feel that they have powers over others when in fact they are intended to serve the public.

I would like to remind ourselves that those people who give bribe or extort money for service not delivered are guilty of corruption just as the person who gave the bribe.

Nepotism is also common in state governments where I was told that charity begins at home. Hence those in authority surround themselves with their immediate relatives and friends who made loyalty to them yet they are totally incapable of doing their work (there was loud claps) professionally. We southern Sudanese do not think to realize that southern Sudan is our home. Otherwise, our behavior encourages workers to be loyal to individuals than to the nation of south Sudan.

These things are wrong and they are all corruption and they result in sustained poverty and under development since the resources are used to benefit only a small number of people who are often not very productive.

I was even told about the inflated payrolls or payments made to people who you know do not exist or collection of pay by one person at state, county or payam levels for the work not done.

But also I am aware and met among you hard working, dedicated and committed professionals who are not part of the on going corruption.

At this juncture, I would like to assure you that Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission is fully mandated to protect public properties, funds, assets and also to investigate and seek persecution for corruption cases in Southern Sudan or outside Sudan if necessary.

There are problems in GoSS as we all know the 2.5 million allocated to southern Sudan anti corruption commission, only 1/4 of operational budget cost for the month of April 2007 was released together with salaries. GoSS treasury still owns the commission 880,000 dollars out of 1.25 million that was allocated to the commission. Hence I am obliged to say when we do international assessment of anti-corruption commission that is successful internationally; there are two things that come up;

If money is not provided, then we in the Anti-Corruption Commission become a rubber stamp as an organization

If you are not independent, then we in the Anti-Corruption Commission become a rubber stamp

CHALLENGES

As a concept and practice, anti-corruption is new in Southern Sudan and it does not exist even in northern Sudan. Therefore, little is known about the Anti-Corruption Commission by the public who hold misconceptions about the work of Anti Corruption commission is doing. For example, people expected the commission to arrest all those thieves looting public funds and assets are to be locked in jail immediately.

However, anti corruption commission work is still more related to issues of good governance and the rule of law in order for the sake reason we have to enrich our people.

How to ensure the entire government at all levels commits itself to ensure a corrupt free Sudan and this is where all of you become very important to works of GoSS.

You are the one who protects the resources of our government finances, and assets.

“If you do a lose job, then people will think the whole government of southern Sudan is corrupt and cannot manage itself”.

But if you are able to do commendable job, the same is true, you will lift this government to a very high heights, say Pauline Riek.

The commissioner congratulated the states of Jonglei, Warrap and Central Equatoria for having appointed anti-corruption unit in their respective states.

The Commission is also mandated to educate the public on corruption issues as GoSS is determined to fight corruption from its roots and with your support, together we can make positive difference.

Darfur

AlAyam Editorial: Objective of attack against AU in Darfur: a) terrorize incoming hybrid troops and b) make peace process a failure (AlAyam)

AlAyam editorial was devoted today to the attack against AMIS troops in Haskanita. The editorial calls on the AU and UN to press for an effective ceasefire as the only solution for insecurity in Darfur. The editorial argues that the objective of the attackers is to a) terrorize the personnel of the hybrid operation who are expected to be deployed in Darfur and b) to make the scheduled peace talks in Tripoli a failure.

Attack on AMIS Base in Haskanita

(AlAyam)-- In the worst incident of its kind since AMIS began its mission in Sudan the AU has yesterday announced that an unidentified armed group has attacked its military base in Haskanita. As a result, 10 AU personnel have been killed, 7 injured and 50 others are still missing. Some Darfur rebel groups accused a breakaway JEM group of executing the attack in order to secure seats at Tripoli talks.

(AFP)-- The **African Union** strongly condemned Sunday a "heinous" attack on its troops in Sudan's Darfur region in which at least 10 peacekeepers died, and said the perpetrators should be punished. "The AU condemns in the strongest terms this unprovoked attack. We believe strongly that the group involved should bear the full responsibility of this heinous attack," AU security chief Said Djinnit said.

"The force commander has been there early this morning to assess the situation on the ground and our representative, Rodolphe Adada, will be in Darfur tomorrow," he added.

Adada, the AU-UN joint special envoy for Darfur, said earlier he was "profoundly shocked and appalled by the outrageous and deliberate attack" which came just weeks ahead of talks in Tripoli in a bid to end the Darfur conflict. The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) said at least 10 peacekeepers were killed and 50 personnel were missing after a "sustained attack by a large and organised group of heavily armed men" on the southern Haskanita base Saturday.

(ST)-- The **US** condemned the attack on the African Union base in Darfur today that left 10 soldiers dead and 50 unaccounted for. "We are infuriated by this attack. They need to stop and all parties need to respect the ceasefire" a state department official told Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity.

It is not clear who carried out the attack but sources say they are a faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (**JEM**) wanting a seat in the upcoming peace talks in Tripoli. But JEM official told Sudan Tribune they had no presence in the area since about a week ago and denied that it was carried out by a splinter faction of their movement. "These are militias close to the Sudanese government part of the plan to scare off the peacekeeping forces that are to be deployed to Darfur" said the spokesperson of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Ahmed Hussein Adam. Adam said his movement condemns the attack because "these forces are coming to help the people of Darfur and it is against the morals of the people there to hurt those who came to help them"

(APP): **British Government** has condemned attack on the African Union Peacekeeping troops in Haskanita, North Darfur, in which eight peacekeepers died and has called for immediate cessation of hostilities by all sides and to join the political process. In a statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, said : 'I utterly condemn yesterday's murder of African Union Peacekeepers in Darfur.

These are soldiers who have gone to the region to protect the innocent from violence. Attacking them is a callous and destructive act. This latest atrocity underlines the need for all sides in the conflict to commit to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to join the political process. This can be the only route to lasting peace in this traumatised region'.

He said the UK will continue to take an international lead in supporting AMIS (African Mission in Sudan). The total UK support committed to AU peacekeepers (AMIS) is pounds 73 million which pays for troop salaries and food, ground fuel, military and police advisers.

(BBC Monitoring)-- The **spokesman for the Armed Forces**, Brigadier Uthman Muhammad Al-Aghbash, has denounced the attack carried out by some rebel forces in Darfur on a base of the African Union forces in Haskanita area, which led to the killing of 10 African Union soldiers and wounding others and missing of others [sentence as published].

In a statement to Suna, Brigadier Al-Aghbash said that this attack came in a time when efforts are being made to reach a peaceful solution for the Darfur issue, either by the Government of National Unity or the United Nations and the African Union, and also when preparations are being made for negotiations in Tripoli next October.

The spokesman of the Armed Forces disclosed that the Armed Forces received a request from the African Union for support to evacuate their wounded soldiers, affirming that the Armed Forces is ready to provide the necessary support.

Sudanese rebels accuse AU of providing intelligence information to government

Excerpt from report by Sudanese independent newspaper Al-Ayyam on 30 September

The [rebel] Sudan Liberation Movement-Unity faction [SLMU], has accused the AU of providing intelligence information on [the rebel] movements to the Sudanese government. The SLMU further accused the government of bombing Dalil Babikir, Motoro and Al-Mazrub areas in addition to areas around Haskanita in southern Darfur.

However, the AU official spokesman strongly denied that AU personnel were providing intelligence information to the government, while the official spokesman for the Sudanese armed forces denied it was carrying out air raids in Darfur.

The SLMU's field commander, Abu-Bakr Kadu, told Al-Ayyam that the government had shelled the said areas in Darfur and pointed out to increased mobilization by the

armed forces to strike the movements [locations]. "The AU provides intelligence information on areas controlled by the [rebel] movements and their weapons," he added.

In this regard, the press office of the official spokesman for the armed forces reiterated that there were no military operations in Darfur and that the armed movements are making the allegation of air raids to hasten the deployment of hybrid and multinational troops on the border with Chad.

The office said the armed movements further wanted the international community to be hostile to the government. It further said activities carried out by the army were normal in view of the fact that it was responsible for the protection of civilians'.
[Passage omitted]

Source: Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 30 Sep 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 300907/as-mj

Rebels accused of killing Darfur peacekeepers

Xan Rice, East Africa correspondent

Monday October 1, 2007

Guardian

Hundreds of rebels overran an African Union camp in Darfur, killing at least 10 soldiers and leaving 50 more unaccounted for, in the deadliest assault since the peacekeeping mission began three years ago. The attack in Haskanita, near the border of north and south Darfur, completely destroyed the base. Seven peacekeepers were injured.

"There is a great feeling of shock here," said Nouredine Mezni, a spokesman for the AU mission in Sudan, in a telephone interview from Khartoum. "These were people helping the local population." He said several AU teams were trying to find the 50 missing peacekeepers. "We cannot track them now ... maybe we will find them later," he said.

The attack drew immediate international condemnation, with the French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, calling it "a murderous and unacceptable act".

Haskanita has seen heavy recent fighting between government forces and rebel militias from the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army Unity faction, which have accused Khartoum of trying to grab land ahead of scheduled peace talks in Libya this month, and before the deployment of a new, vastly beefed-up peacekeeping mission.

The motive for Saturday night's attack remains unclear. But the rebels have made no secret of their contempt for the 7,000 AU troops based in the region, accusing them of failing to protect civilians.

Officially, the African Union has only described the attackers, who arrived at the peacekeepers' base in about 30 vehicles, as "armed men". But the leader of a new "hybrid" AU-UN mission to Darfur fingered rebels for blame. "Rebel groups, who indulge in such random violence and bloodshed, undermine their credibility on any negotiation table," said General Martin Luther Agwai, who will lead the 26,000-strong force that is due to replace the AU mission before the end of the year.

A spokesman for the rebel JEM denied that its troops were involved. An SLA Unity commander told the Reuters news agency that fierce fighting between the government and rebels had occurred in Haskanita earlier in the day. "Maybe the AU was caught in the middle of the bombardment during our battles with the government," said Abu Bakr Kadu. "The government has been moving, using the AU as cover, and they are still near the AU base."

The attack will increase pressure on the Sudanese government to facilitate the rapid deployment of the expanded peacekeeping force. In the past, Khartoum has made it difficult for the AU to scale up its operations. With all sides ignoring numerous ceasefire agreements, the peacekeepers' role has largely been reduced to that of bystanders, often confined to their bases. Since January, at least 118 aid vehicles have been hijacked and insecurity has worsened across the Darfur region.

Jan Egeland, the former UN relief coordinator, said earlier this month that the AU-UN force must be prepared to fight the various militias if it is to be effective. "It is the safe areas of Bosnia all over again," he said. "We give people food and blankets but then say they can be massacred at night."

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Shalgam discusses with Ki-moon arrangements for Tripoli Darfur peace negotiations

Tripoli:(SUNA)

Secretary of the Libyan People's General Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, Abdul-Rahman Shalgam reviewed with the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in New York a number of regional and international issues, top of them the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in Darfur and the ongoing arrangements for the Darfur peace negotiations, scheduled for the Libyan capital of Tripoli on the 27th of coming October, reported the Libyan Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA). The agency further stated that the meeting between the two sides also discussed reformation and enhancement of the United Nations to be a more democratic organization that reflects the new world reality and enhances the role of the General Assembly which brings together in its membership all the UN Member States. Ban Ki-Moon, during the meeting, expressed once again his appreciation of the Libyan leader Moummar Geddafi and his role in tackling and resolving the conflicts in the African continent.