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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

United Nations calls for accountability for CPA and DPA spoilers

USG Jeane-Marie Guehenno says the international community should stand firm against any violations to the peace agreements in Sudan, reports *AlAyaam*.

Guehenno, the Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations in the United Nations, said that it should be clearly noted that anyone who violates the provisions of either the CPA or the Darfur Peace Agreement should bear the responsibility for such violations and that the international community should be tough on violations of such kind.

SRSB Pronk visits South Darfur

AlHayat daily reports that SRSB Pronk was in South Darfur yesterday where he had talks with the *Wali* and local tribal leaders.

The *Wali* briefed him of the security, humanitarian and political situation in the area while the head of a committee concerned with tribal reconciliation briefed him of the efforts they have been involved in. The SRSB commended these efforts and said that South Darfur leads the region in such tribal reconciliation efforts.

The paper said that the SRSB was also briefed by representatives of Darfur Peace Agreement signatory factions on their future plans.

In a statement to the *SMC*, SRSB Pronk said there was need for him to consult and exchange views with the holdout groups to help bring them on board.

He said that the security and humanitarian situation in South Darfur is stable but that the recent events in Gireida have caused many humanitarian agencies to withdraw from the area.

The SRSB also pointed out that UNSCR 1706 is not an invasion of the Sudan but an invitation to Sudan to accept a United Nations troop deployment to Darfur. He called on the Sudan government to have a good reading of the resolution and start discussions to facilitate acceptance of the resolution.

He also called on the government to explain the resolution to the people.

On the other hand, the SRSB described the situation in Muhajirriya as very bad and pointed out that he could no longer tell who is attacking whom. He pointed out that there neither United Nations personnel or personnel from the other agencies are in that area.

In another development, Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa also travelled to Nyala yesterday and, in a press statement on arrival, said that his visit was in the context of getting acquainted to the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement on the ground and to confirm that UNSCR 1706 only curbs national sovereignty.

He expressed confidence that the people of Darfur would be the first to stand up against an international force should it deploy to their region.

He said that the government stretches its hand to the holdout groups and revealed that they have been in continuous contact with these groups. He promised that the next 90 days will see major efforts for stability and this will be followed by voluntary returns.

SRSB Jan Pronk calls for more pressure on the Sudan government

Mr. Jan Pronk has called for more pressure on the Sudan government to accept a United Nations force deployment to Darfur, reports *AlSudani* daily.

Quoting Pronk in his weblog (www.janpronk.nl), the paper says that the SRSB wrote that current statements on the issue are only for domestic consumption but pointed out that a policy of diplomacy and pressure may help in changing the Sudan government's position in rejection of a transition of the African Union to a United Nations operation.

The paper goes on to say that the current situation calls for mutual diplomacy that may allow for incentives to the Sudan government in exchange for a deployment of forces. He pointed out that these incentives were all due since the signing of the CPA.

Mr. Pronk also warned that a withdrawal of the African Union forces from Darfur before a United Nations replacement will create a blood-bath in the region and leave the doors open for attacks on IDP camps. He said parties should get off the collision course on the transition and focus instead on supporting the African Union for the period until the year's end.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Sudan says open to dialogue with UN over Darfur

(AFP; most local dailies) "The Sudanese government is sticking to its position of rejecting UN Security Council Resolution 1706 but does not reject dialogue with the UN because the Sudan is a member of the organisation," said presidential press Secretary Mahjoub Fadul Bedry.

Bedry was speaking after a meeting in Khartoum of Bashir with Arab League Secretary General Amru Musa and Foreign Minister Lam Akol, during which Akol handed Bashir a message from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

He said Annan's message contained "a plan for backing African Union forces in Darfur with logistics, equipment and consultative expertise."

The Khartoum government, Bedry said, "is seeking a way out of the crisis the UN put itself in with the Sudan."

Bedry described Annan's message as good, adding that Bashir would respond positively.

Bedry said Musa had pledged to continue efforts for rallying support to the African Union and its forces. The Beshir-Mussa meeting "centred on improving the situation in Darfur and reinforcing the AU mission with Arab-African forces in addition to UN logistical and material support."

He explained that those reinforcements should hail from Arab countries in Africa.

Musa arrived in Khartoum late Monday. Earlier Tuesday he conferred with Akol on the developments in the Darfur crisis.

"The talks also covered the Arab position towards the current issues as well as the Arab League programmes and meetings as the Sudan is the president of the current Arab summit," Musa said after his meeting with Akol.

"President Beshir is planning to launch a comprehensive initiative in the coming period for reactivating cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union for implementation and expansion of the Abuja umbrella," he said.

Commenting on a suggestion for deploying Arab-Muslim troops in Darfur, Mussa said: "It is left to the Sudan to decide on whether to accept or turn down this proposal."

He said his visit to Sudan came as part of an Arab diplomatic drive for dealing with the international position towards the situation in Darfur and finding a way out of the problem which "is aggravated by time due to the erroneous information reported about it."

Darfur situation requires UN Peacekeepers - US's Rice

(AP; *Al-Sahafa*) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a passionate plea to the international community Tuesday to persuade the government of Sudan to reverse itself and open the bloodied Darfur region to U.N. peacekeepers.

Rice said a U.N. force could be drawn principally from Muslim African countries and from North Africa and possibly Asia.

Dispensing with traditional diplomatic understatement, Rice cited U.N. reports that tens of thousands of people, or even hundreds of thousands, perhaps, cannot be reached with food and water.

Women who go out for firewood are regularly raped, she said. Villages are attacked by militia, by rebels and by government forces.

"This cannot go on," Rice said at a news conference amid Mideast peacemaking efforts.

"The international community does have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable," she said. "What is going on in Darfur now cannot be tolerated."

She said "we need to work urgently to have the government of Khartoum accept what is now a U.N. Security Council resolution."

"This is not a challenge to the sovereignty of Sudan," Rice said of the proposed dispatch of U.N. peacekeepers. "This is certainly respected. But we need to deal with the terrible humanitarian situation there."

CPA

SPLM warns against sabotage of the CPA

Khartoum Monitor: The junior partner in the GoNU has warned those in the ruling party who try, on the pretext of the Darfur crises, to torpedo the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended more than two decades of war in southern Sudan.

Yassir Arman says there are those who seek to use the Darfur crises to sabotage the CPA through different forms to realize this purpose and cited the attempts to curtail press freedom.

GoNU

Police say jailed reporter is not detained over professional issues

AlAdhwaa: Commenting on recent demands for the release of *AlRai AlAam* reporter, Abu-Obeida Abdalla, the press officer at the National Security office said that the detention is legal and that the reporter will be released once investigations are complete.

He said that the reporter is detained for reasons not connected to his work as a journalist or his political views.

Police raid mosque in Omdurman and arrest the Imam

Yesterday a police force raided Sheikh Abdulrahim el-Buraai Mosque in Umbadah, Omdurman at 3:30 am, reports *Rai AlShaab*.

The police searched the house of the *Imam*, Sheikh Adam Birema and arrested him and the *Moazin* of the mosque.

This action has raised the anger of all people who came to the mosque to prayers.

It is worth mentioning that the *Imam* has never been known of involvement in any suspect activities.

Southern Sudan

Uganda resumes offensive against LRA rebels

(*Reuters* – 4th Oct. **Gulu**) The Ugandan army said on Wednesday it had resumed an offensive against Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in northern Uganda, complicating peace talks aimed at ending one of Africa's most vicious wars.

But an army spokesman insisted that renewed operations to hunt down LRA fighters should not hinder negotiations in neighbouring south Sudan between the two sides.

"Following the expiry of the cessation of hostilities requiring the rebels to assemble, we have resumed operations against LRA remnants in northern Uganda," army spokesman Major Felix Kulayigye told Reuters.

Any LRA fighters in northern Uganda who had failed to assemble at two locations under a truce that expired on Sept. 19 would be "dealt with militarily", he said. "This has nothing to do with the peace process which should continue."

In response, LRA deputy leader Vincent Otti told Reuters the LRA would defend themselves against any Ugandan UPDF army attack, but remained committed to the peace talks.

Otti said there were still some rebels hiding out in remote areas of northern Uganda because poor communications meant they had not received orders to gather at the camps.

"Those who are left in northern Uganda will not do any harm to the UPDF. They will not attack civilians, we will not ambush vehicles, but if the UPDF attacks us we will defend ourselves," Otti said by satellite telephone from the bush near the Sudan-Congo border.

"But for us, we don't want to fight, we want to talk," he added in the interview with a Reuters reporter in the northern Ugandan town of Gulu.

There were no reports of any new clashes in the north.

Monitoring team finds no LRA troops in Owiny Ki-Bul assembly points

A fact –finding team consisting of parties to talks between the Uganda government and the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) left one of the assembly points, Owiny Ki-Bul, southern Sudan, without establishing the presence of the LRA rebels, reports *Sudan Tribune*.

The team which came from Juba came to verify complaints by both the Lord's Resistance Army and the Uganda government over alleged violations of a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed on 26th August in Juba.

GoSS denies report of Juba explosions

There were no explosions in Juba town Juba, Lanya or Yei the Minister of information and broadcasting for the GoSS, Samson Kwajie, said in a press briefing today as the southern Sudan Radio premises, reports the *Khartoum Monitor*.

Kwajie said these stories were published in the daily newspapers in Khartoum, which is actually not true and warned the media against publishing false information.

SPLM detains NCP members in southern Sudan

Informed sources have reported to the *SMC* that SPLA intelligence in Equatoria State had detained a large number of senior government officials – most of them affiliated to the National Congress Party, reports *AlHayat*, *AlIntibaha* and other local dailies.

This is the latest of a series of arrests that upped last month and included traders in Juba market and the seizure of 40,000 US dollars.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

National Redemption Front says it is ready for peace talks with the government

AlIntibaha: Abubakr Hamid, head of the Justice and Equality Movement and a prominent leader in the NRF renewed the movement readiness to make a peace agreement with the Government only if the latter is serious and transparent.

"We need peace today more than tomorrow and we are ready to negotiate anywhere and anytime to put an end to the war and conflict in the region" he said.

A group of SLM-Abdul Wahid field commanders join the DPA

AlIntibaha A group of SLM-Abdul Wahid field commanders joined the DPA.

Jafar Abdulhakam, West Darfur Governor said that a group led by field commander Abdulgasim Imam of the Jebel Marra area has joined the DPA.

SLM- Bassey renews commitment to Darfur ceasefire accords

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3rd Oct. **Paris**) In response to a letter from the UN envoy to Sudan, a Darfur rebel faction renewed its commitment to Darfur ceasefire agreements signed with the Sudanese government.

In a letter* to the UN special envoy to Sudan Jan Pronk, the leader of a faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement, Ahmed Abdelshafi Bassey, reiterated his commitment to ceasefire accords signed with Khartoum.

“The Movement honors, and at all times, all previously signed agreements with the Government of Sudan, especially those related to ceasefire.”

Two weeks ago, the UN envoy sent a letter to the Sudanese government and Darfur rebel groups urging them to observe a truce during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan to let relief workers operate in the region.

“We assure you that, the SLM/A forces in Darfur will take even extra measures during the Holy month of Ramadan to observe and implement all previously signed ceasefire agreements and protocols” said Bassey.

In a letter sent to Pronk on 27 September, the rebel leader stressed on the readiness of his group to hold talks with the Sudanese government “to finding a peaceful and comprehensive resolution to the Sudanese conflict in Darfur”.

Pronk said a halt to fighting would lead to "creating an atmosphere whereby you can start talking again rather than fighting again with each other." It would also allow U.N. agencies to reach those in need, he said.

**Text of the letter is in a separate supplement to this MMR.*

Rebel JEM denies clashes with Minnawi group in South Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) denied reports related to its alleged involvement in clashes against the former rebel faction of Minni Minnawi in south Darfur.

In a press release, the JEM spokesperson, Ahmed Hussein Adam, categorically denies any involvement in the attack on the SLA base in Gereida town, south Darfur at the end of last month.

Up to 40 people were killed in clashes between JEM and SLM – Minnawi faction in south Darfur, forcing foreign aid workers to abandon the Gereida displaced persons’ camp, the Guardian newspaper reported on its Web site on Monday 2 October.

Meanwhile, Senior Presidential Assistant, Minni Minnawi, strongly denounced the Gireida’s attack against his deputy Al-Rayah Mahmoud and the SLM’s general commander, Mohamed Jumaa Hagar, on Friday 29 September.

He said preliminary investigations confirmed that some government sides, hostile to peace, were involved. He said this diminished the government's credibility regarding the implementation of the peace agreement in Darfur.

Minnawi reaffirmed that hostages taken during the incident would continue to be questioned to reveal all the threads of the conspiracy.

On the other hand, an AU source has confirmed that more than 10 members of the SLM faction led by Minnawi were killed or injured in the Gereida incidents. The source said this latest internal SLM dispute erupted over arrangements in the Abuja Peace Agreement between Zaghawa and Massalit tribe members of the movement, and shooting ensued.