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United Nations

SLM-Freewill accuses SRSG Pronk of laxity

The leader of the SLM-Freewill faction, AbdelRahman Musa, has accused SRSG Pronk of having lax attitudes towards the Darfur Peace Agreement since it was signed in 5th May, reports the *Khartoum Monitor*.

He cites as an example the African Union's several complaints about Mr. Pronk's roles and powers.

Musa who was talking at a *SUNA* forum said the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed amidst good intentions expressed by the international community but laments that so far their support is not forthcoming.

SRSG Pronk visits Gireida to help ease tensions there

Speaking to *AllIntibaha*, the director of the office of the deputy head of the SLM-Minnawi said that SRSG Jan Pronk is in Gireida, South Darfur, to get acquainted to the situation there following the recent failed attempt to assassinate Minnawi's deputy, Dr. AlRayah Mahmoud.

While in Gireida, Mr. Pronk held talks with SLM representatives and the local administration on the recent events and how to defuse the situation.

SPLA soldiers in Wau terrorize United Nations Mission in Sudan personnel

The *Juba Post* reports that SPLA soldiers in Wau stopped a number of United Nations vehicles and confiscated cars, radios and identity cards from staff members last Saturday.

The paper says locals passing the roadblock were manhandled and beaten.

The situation was brought to normal after intervention by United Nations Mission in Sudan sector delegation led by the Sector Commander and assisted by three national monitors.

All confiscated material was released to the victims.

Displaced neglected by the United Nations, agencies and the government

The United Nations, NGOs and the government have come under attack for neglecting the displaced in Khartoum.

The *Juba Post* quotes a report by the former UN-OCHA Advocacy Officer in Sudan, Kirsten Zaat, in which she said that the physical presence of the international community - including United Nations agencies, NGOs and donor governments - in Khartoum seemed not to include a capacity for internationals to "look into their own backyards and recognize the atrocities taking place on their own doorsteps".

The report by Zaat draws a devastating picture of how the collaboration between United Nations agencies and NGOs which, the report adds, is in practice colored by the competitive nature of dollar-driven aid.

She highlights the plight of the IDPs of Omdurman (the Sheikan incident) and Soba Aradhi and winds up by saying it is time for the United Nations, NGOs and donor government to stop protecting government which systematically abuse the human rights of their citizens including IDP populations.

Peacekeeper spends free time running vet clinic in Malakal

The *Juba Post* carries under this title the story of a United Nations peacekeeper, Lt. Col. A. S. Rao of the Indian Contingent who spends his free time running a free clinic at the United Nations Mission in Sudan Veterinary hospital in Malakal.

Lt. Col. Rao is reported to have said that this voluntary task he has embarked on is not part of the CPA but is an attempt at helping to build Sudan from the grassroots.

Lt. Col. Rao also gives lectures to between 60 and 70 students from the Malakal Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and at community vet units based on his own initiative and has promised to continue doing so as long as he is in Malakal.

The *Juba Post* adds that India's ambassador to Sudan paid a short visit to Malakal earlier during the week and expressed hope that Lt. Col. Rao's work will help strengthen relations between Sudan and India.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Sudan welcomes UN's support for AU forces

(Xinhua/ST) Oct 4, 2006 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan welcomed the United Nations (UN)' support for the African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Sudan's restive western region of Darfur, the official SUNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir made the announcement in a letter to reply a joint message submitted by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Chairperson of the AU Commission Alpha Oumar Konaré last month.

"This support will enable the AU peacekeeping forces in Darfur to carry out their tasks stipulated by the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)," al-Bashir said.

Sudanese presidential spokesman Mahjoub Fadel Badri said on Tuesday that Annan and Konaré's message "contains a plan to provide assistance to the African Union forces in Darfur in the logistic, equipment and consultancy domains."

SPLM reiterates support for a United Nations Darfur force

Alwan daily covers the recent UNMIS organised media visit to Malakal and Bentiu.

At a press conference with the visiting media delegation held at UNMIS' Sector II headquarters in Malakal, the *Wali* of Unity State reiterated the SPLM support for a United Nations force to deploy to Darfur.

He expressed the belief that peace in the south can not be sustained without peace in Darfur and that the rejection to a United Nations deployment to Darfur was unilateral and did not represent the position of the GoNU.

He further pointed out that by his rejection to such a deployment, President Bashir has closed the door to realising stability in Sudan and that to reopen the door will require the services of a skilled person like First V-P Salva Kiir.

He further pointed out that the Sudan has just come out of a 21-year war and is very much in need of donor assistance and is therefore not able to confront the international community. Furthermore, he adds, the presence of United Nations troops and Military Observers exudes a sense of confidence that peace can be achieved.

Governor Taban Deng accused a local militia group of trying to cause insecurity in the state by not heeding to requests to reintegrate in either the SAF or the SPLA.

The governor further said that the SAF is dragging its feet in redeploying from the area .

***Wali* of South Darfur says United Nations deployment will spark genocide in Darfur**

In a meeting in Nyala yesterday with a visiting German parliamentary delegation, the *Wali* of South Darfur said that a United Nations deployment in Darfur will spark genocide in the region, reports *AlSudani* daily.

The *Wali* further pointed out that each of the tribes in the area has its own militia force.

He further pointed out that the problem of Darfur has been blown out of proportion and that foreign escalation has brought the issue to such an extent as to make solutions difficult.

He called on Germany to assist the Sudan address the root causes of the problem and help make the international community understand the root causes.

The German delegation, on its part, said Germany was prepared to contribute to the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and in development in Darfur.

***AlQaeda* condemns coordination between the SPLM and the UN in el-Damazin**

AlIntibaha reports that an Islamic website that frequently posts statements from *AlQaeda* has condemned the clear coordination between the United Nations and the SPLA which it described as infidels.

The statement said that this coordination is especially evident in southern Blue Nile where, the statement goes on to say, the United Nations has imported large quantities of arms, ammunition and other military hardware. It also adds that one of two containers being ferried across the town in el-Damazin broke open right under the nose of the Sudanese government but nothing was done on the issue.

But the SPLM representative in the area denies any such coordination with the United Nations to import military hardware.

GoNU

State minister for humanitarian affairs says ‘political invaders’ using NGOs

The Citizen covers a seminar held yesterday on organising voluntary services and in which civil society organisations participated.

The State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, addressing participants, said that the GoNU has responded positively to the views of the civil society organisations and cited the withdrawal of the Voluntary Services Act that was heatedly debated in parliament. He said a new one has been drafted and is before parliament for discussion.

The state minister further pointed out that the government would however continue monitoring the source of funding for civil society organisations because the source of funds, in most cases, had a bearing on the policy and objectives of some civil society organisations. He described some organisations as fronts for political invaders.

Police clash with Chinese contractors in the Meroe dam area

Police and Chinese contractors have clashed in the Meroe Dam area, reports *Rai AlShaab*.

The Chinese reportedly disarmed a police force and will have to face legal charges.

Authorities arrest 4 in connection to Jeili murder

Police arrested 4 people yesterday in connection with the murder three days ago of a local trader.

Alhibir Awad ElKarim's decomposed body was found near the Jeili Refinery north of Khartoum three days after his family reported his disappearance.

The murdered trader was stabbed by a blunt object and robbed of his money according to the police report.

The Police have acknowledged that without the assistance of the civilian population, they would have found difficulties in controlling the recent increase in crimes of murder and has called on the population to keep cooperating.

Southern Sudan

Telecommunications minister in GoSS accuses his federal counterpart of blocking development of the sector in southern Sudan

(*Juba Post*) The telecommunications minister in the GoSS has accused his counterpart in the federal government to block development in the telecommunications in southern Sudan.

Minister Gier Cuang Aluong sees that the GoSS has the right to have a clock of frequencies to be managed by her but the federal government would not allow the GoSS to regulate its telecommunications.

Commenting on reports that mobile phone service provider GemTel is largely owned by him, minister Gier pointed out that the company belongs to the SPLM and other "friends of the party" and was the brainchild proposed during the run up to the CPA.

Atim Garang, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, criticizes papers for publishing false information on arrests in Southern Sudan

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atim Garang, has criticized local newspapers for publishing false information on the arrest of some senior officials including National Congress Party members in southern Sudan.

The Deputy Speaker did not mention names but called on newspapers to investigate their stories first and to avoid media wars.

Returnees fear insecurity by SAF in Jonglei State

Hundreds have been displaced from Jonglei State to Malakal in upper Nile State as a result of recent conflicts led by Mjr. Gen. Tang Ginya, a militia commander allied to the SAF, reports the governor Philip Thon Leek of Jonglei State.

Speaking to the *Juba Post*, the governor blamed the SAF for causing instability in the state and points out that reports of insecurity would discourage would-be returnees from going back home.

He further pointed out that an inter-tribal conference held in the region culminated in agreement that tribes abstain from fighting each other yet recent reports from Akobo talk of continued attacks by the Murle. He said that the disarmament in the area has further compounded the situation leaving locals defenseless and vulnerable.

Police refute Juba explosion scare

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the Director of Police (Northern Division) in southern Sudan have both refuted allegations that there are radios in Juba that are laden with explosives or that any casualties have occurred as a result of such explosives., reports the *Juba Post*.

The Deputy Inspector-General said that the suspect radios were taken for tests to establish the presence of TNT but the tests only proved that the radios have a mixture of cement and sand to add weight and balance but there is no explosive.

The Senior Medical Officer at the Juba Teaching Hospital also denied knowledge of any cases of victims of explosives having been brought to the hospital for treatment.

On earlier reports by a police officer, Cpt. Daniel Barnaba, saying he was able to detect some TNT from 10 small radio receivers and tape recorders, the Director of Police, Northern Division in Juba, says they do not know of such a police officer.

A United Nations release also confirms the police denial of explosives in radios.

World Bank refutes GoSS allegations

The World Bank denies allegations from the GoSS that it is working too slowly to fund development projects in southern Sudan, reports the *Juba Post*.

Shamima Khan, the manager of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for southern Sudan, defending the World Bank saying that the WB's policies and procedures are not necessarily long but are very structured.

Some ministries in the GoSS have reportedly complained that the WB offices in Juba is slow to release MDTF funds for agreed projects in southern Sudan and that some contractors approved by the GoSS were rejected by the World Bank but Khan pointed out that the problems might have arisen due to lack of familiarity with the procedures required.

A director for the Juba offices of the World Bank is expected to take over management of the trust fund programs in November this year.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Renewed fighting forces 10,000 Darfuris to flee

(Reuters) Fresh inter-rebel fighting has forced 10,000 Darfuris to seek refuge near a camp of African Union forces monitoring a widely-ignored truce in Sudan's west, sources said on Wednesday.

U.N. spokeswoman Radhia Achouri said only two aid agencies were working in the Muhajiriya area and they were unable to cope with the strain of the new arrivals fleeing fighting in nearby Gereida in south Darfur.

"The humanitarian situation (is) alarming and requires immediate attention," said one AU source who declined to be named. The source added pockets of rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) soldiers were patrolling the town.

Achouri said it was not clear which rebel groups were involved in the fighting. The towns of Muhajiriya and Gereida are controlled by the Minni Arcua Minnawi SLA faction, the only one of three negotiating rebel factions to sign a May peace deal with the government.

Khartoum has refused a U.N. takeover of the cash-strapped and struggling AU force in Darfur. The AU has extended its mandate until the end of the year but has indicated it is unwilling and unable to continue in Darfur indefinitely.

Observers say Khartoum fears U.N. troops will be used to arrest officials likely to be indicted by the International Criminal Court investigating alleged war crimes in Darfur.

The AU source added that in Gereida, at least two women were raped in recent days. The women were from the non-Arab Massaleit tribe.

On Wednesday the Sudanese Organization Against Torture reported one of Darfur's most volatile camps, Kalma Camp in South Darfur, was attacked by armed militia and two men from the non-Arab Fur tribe were killed and another injured.

Masked assailants beat up imam in el-Fasher

In an incident described as unprecedented in el-Fasher, *Akhbar Alyaum* reports that an *imam* was abducted while on the way home after leading the prayer last Tuesday night.

Sources say a group of masked men stopped and offered him a lift home on their vehicle. He was then drugged and beaten up and left unconscious until found by some people around midnight. He was taken to hospital for treatment and the police is following up on the issue.

Minnawi says Darfur –Darfur Dialogue to be launched after peace

Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi met yesterday representatives of the people of Gireida, reports *Rai AlShab*.

The meeting comes against the background of a failed attempt to assassinate Minnawi's deputy while in Gireida.

Minnawi condemned the assassination attempt and said he considers the targeting of SLM-Minnawi officials and the people of Gireida as a criminal act and promised to take the recommendations of the people of Gireida into consideration.

The SLM leader also said that the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue would be held after a reconciliation of all the people of Darfur.

The representatives of the people of Gireida said that such incidents are foreign to the people of the area and called for an investigation into the incident.

Government to hold talks in Tripoli with SLM-Abdul Wahid

Rai AlShaab: The government and the SLM-Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour agreed to hold talks in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Abu-el-Gasim Imam Leader of SLM said that the meeting is to discuss a number of issues including repatriation of the Internally Displaced Persons and power sharing.

Editorials/ Opinion/ Commentaries

Pronk and the work plan for the three coming months

Kamal el-Sadig writes in his column today in *AlAyaam* under this heading.

The columnist outlines the SRSG's Five-Point Plan for the next three months for Darfur and points out that the plan is a good one and addresses the key elements of the issue in Darfur which are negotiations and political talks to complete the Darfur Peace Agreement, security and consolidation of the ceasefire agreement and disarmament and demobilisation of the Janjaweed.

He points out that these were the very points that the people of Darfur, the political forces and civil society have been calling for since 5th May when the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed. The writer laments that the National Congress Party has shown no sign of filling the gaps in the Darfur Peace Agreement nor of concern towards the security aspect of things.

He further adds that the fact that the international community agrees that the Darfur Peace Agreement is lacking is a major step forward and it only remains for the government to adopt this Five-Point Plan and join hands with the international community to open dialogue with the holdout factions as a first step towards solutions to the crisis in Darfur.