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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

➤ UN/ Agencies

Escalation of violence in Darfur may extend conflict to other parts of Sudan, UN plans deploying two battalions before the hybrid in Darfur

(*AlSudani*), The Head of the UN Peacekeeping Department said the increasing violence in Darfur may extend the conflict to others parts of Sudan and poses the need for providing advance equipment for the force to be deployed in the region. The UN is making preparations for deploying two infantry battalions to support the AU Forces before the arrival of the hybrid. Guehenno said the security situation is deteriorating following an attack last month on an AU base and reports on an attack by Government force on another area on Monday this week. What makes me very concerned is that the recent clashes between the Government and the rebels in the neighboring Kordofan area may pose the risk of extending the conflict to areas outside Darfur, said Guehenno in a press conference.

Sudan's justice minister slams UN official over statement on Darfur

(BBC, AlAyam) Text of report by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna website

(BBC Monitoring, AlAyam) Justice Minister Muhammad Ali al-Mardi has said the head of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, was ignorant on Sudanese affairs and does not know anything about the geography, population setup and peace agreements signed.

In a press statement today, the minister said the view of Guehenno in which he said Darfur conflict was threatening to spread all over Sudan in regard to recent clashes between government and Darfur rebels was not objective and concurred with the agenda which some countries are seeking to achieve. Al-Mardi said the statement coincided with warnings issued by the US embassy on spread of clashes outside Darfur.

UN envoy in Sudan for talks on Darfur peace conference

(ST), October 9, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The UN Special Envoy for Darfur is in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, for talks with Government officials, civil society groups and other players ahead of major peace negotiations later this month that will try to end the conflict that has torn apart the impoverished region.

Jan Eliasson, who will convene those negotiations with his African Union counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim, returned to Khartoum for the meetings this week, UN spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters in New York today.

The negotiations, which are scheduled to take place in neighbouring Libya on 27 October, are designed to find a solution to the conflict between rebels, Government forces and allied Janjaweed militia groups.

This week's talks in Khartoum are taking place amid mounting concern from senior UN officials about the recent spike in violence in Darfur, particularly in South Darfur state.

(UN News)

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Committees for investigations on Miseriya-Nuba clashes begin work after the Eid

(AlAyam), The security situation in Lagawa Locality (County) in South Kordofan, which witnessed recently bloody clashes between the Miseriya and Nuba tribes, has returned to normal. Meanwhile, it has been reported that the committees established for investigation on these clashes will begin their work after the Eid.

At last: A front of the ESPA non-signatories

(*AlSudani*), The Democratic Alliance of Eastern Sudan declared in a press statement it issued yesterday at a press conference the beginning of its activities to bear pressures on the Government to solve the problem of Eastern Sudan within the context of a comprehensive political solution in Sudan. The Alliance, which represents the views of the opponents of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA), calls for solving the problem of the east at the macro level (comprehensive national solution) a comprehensive economic development programme, legal and constitutional reform regionally and federally, fair representation in civil service, military, judiciary and constitutional institutions.

Opposition asks for establishing special courts for elections, 12 political parties submit memo on elections law to CRC

(*AlAyam, AlRai Aam*), Opposition political forces have yesterday submitted a memo on the elections law to the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC). The memo is the outcome of a two-month debate between the political forces through a committee chaired by Farouq Abu Eisa (NDA). *UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE MEMO TO FOLLOW.*

GoSS

Maj Gen Ajang: SPLM personnel did not receive salaries for two months

(*AlAyam*), SPL Deputy Commander-in-Chief Maj Gen Bior Ajang said the SPLA personnel have not received their salaries for the last two months. According to General Ajang the reason for delaying payment of salaries is that the accountants lack required skills.

On another development, General Ajang said they have received no comments on the report which they have presented to the Ceasefire Political Committee on redeployment of SPLA troops from al-Dibab.

SPLM to determine today on partnership with NCP

(*AlSudani*), The SPLM Politbureau will resume today its meeting in Juba with the participation of a number of Ministers and Advisers in the Federal Government. Informed sources suggest that today's meeting will agree on decisive resolutions on the partnership with the NCP. According to SPLM sources the participants will discuss in this meeting two options:

- a) giving partnership with NCP a final opportunity
- b) ending partnership and referring all pending issues to IGAD an IGAD Partners, issues including Abyei, non-deployment of SAF in Upper Nile and Unity states.

According to sources the Politbureau will adopt one of the two options.

South Sudan youth urge SPLM to organize new election

(ST), October 9, 2007 (JUBA) — A SPLM youth pressure group which is contesting the election of a youth leader since two months urged the leadership of the party to call for new youth election.

In a meeting held in Juba on Monday October 8, SPLM Youth League Pressure Group representatives called up on SPLM leadership and its chairman Salva Kiir mayardit, to look into youth leadership crisis and to organize a fair and democratic new election.

The purpose of Juba meeting was to review the progresses made for the last 2 months since they provoked undemocratic elections that brought. Akol Paul Kordit into the seat of youth as a chairman, said Jack Daniels, one of the leaders of this group.

Akol Paul Kordit was elected on July 28 this year.

But the contesters alleged among other claims that the representatives were not chosen based on the party rules of representation. They also claim that many high profile Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) members who organized the election, used their public positions to intimidate voters.

The meeting focused on the reorganization and structuring the SPLM youth Pressure groups that represents all the youth groups in the ten states and their sisterly other marginalized areas of Blue Nile, Abyei and Nuba Mountains states while awaiting for the final decisions by the leadership of the SPLM.

It has been extensively expressed by the SPLM Secretariat in Juba that, Akol must be stopped and called for general youth elections that represents other SPLM areas line in north, south and the whole of Sudan since this is going to be the SPLM National Youth League, the meeting agreed.

(ST)

Sudan: First vice-president tours southern states

Text of report by state-owned Sudanese radio on 9 October

First Vice-President of the Republic and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit yesterday addressed a public rally at the Freedom Square in Aweil town as part of his visit to Northern Bahr Al-Ghazal State [south Sudan] to assess the situation of the floods victims.

During the visit, Kiir inaugurated new projects in Nyamlell district, north of Bahr Al-Ghazal. He also addressed a public rally at Freedom Square in Raja town, Western Bahr Al-Ghazal State before his visit to Aweil, during which he promised to build bridges linking Wau and Raja towns. Kiir had already contributed to establishing schools for basic and secondary education.

Source: Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 9 Oct 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007 /ak/mp

Darfur

Agwai accuses Sudan Air force of bombing Muhajria, SAF denies

(*AlAyam*), The African Union accused Sudan Air Force aircrafts of bombing Muhajria area in Darfur on Tuesday this week. General Agwai said the attack has resulted in causing injuries to 24 people. He explained that only SAF has aircraft in the area.

However, SAF denied any relationship with what is happening in Muhajria in South Darfur. SAF Headquarters, according to its spokesperson, attributed the incident to tribal fighting in the area. SAF spokesperson said the army was any no way involved in these events and has not intervened.

The spokesperson of SLM Minawi, Saif Aldin Salih, accused the Government forces and the janjaweed of launching an attack on Muhajria area in South Darfur which is under the control of SLA.

Saif Haroun, Minawi's spokesperson accused Khartoum of attempts to destroy Minawi's SLM before Tripoli peace talks. He said the attack is a violation of the DPA.

Minawi's office manager, Mohamed Bashir, said the attack left tens of people injured and 80 others missing. Further, SLM Minawi said that 48 killed.

Salim, Eliasson discuss preparations for peace talks in Libya

(*AlSudani*), The AU envoy for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim, UN envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson, and the Commissioner of the AU peace and Security Council held a series of meetings for two days in Adis Ababa in an effort to prepare for the Darfur peace talks in Tripoli. Salim Ahmed Salim said they doing their best to convince all the rebel groups to participate in the upcoming talks. in Darfur in order to achieve peace in Darfur. He said the meetings discussed the recent developments and condemned the attack on the AU base in Haskanita.

Sudan denies attack on former Darfur rebels positions (ST)

Wednesday 10 October 2007.

October 9, 2007 (KHARTOUM, Sudan) — The Sudanese army denied today reports that government forces carried out an attack on a former rebel-controlled town in Darfur. More than 50 people were killed, former rebels say.

However, the spokesperson of the Sudan Armed Forces, Brig. Osman Mohamed al-Aghbash said the violence in Muhajerria was between tribes and the government army was not involved.

"What has occurred was fighting between tribes in the area, and the armed forces have nothing to do with it," he said in a statement Tuesday. He did not identify the tribes.

He further denied the intervention of government air force "the Air Force had nothing to do with the incidents of the area and had never come near it, as it had been

conducting a reconnaissance role at Haskanita area in accordance with what has been arranged with the African Union."

The African Union said it was treating many wounded civilians at its small base in Muhajeria, but said its peacekeepers could not leave the camp and were unable to confirm a death toll.

Seif Haroun, a SLM- Minni Minawi spokesperson in Khartoum called the attack a "flagrant violation" of the peace deal signed by his rebel group and Khartoum in Abuja in May 2006 and aimed at ending a conflict that has left at least 200,000 people dead.

The group's military commander warned that any further attack would lead to the resumption of war.

"From now on, our movement will not stand by and do nothing in the face of such attacks," said Arku Suleiman Dhahia, commander in chief of the SLM's armed wing, the Sudan Liberation Army.

"If this happens again, we go back to square one which means war and it will be worse than the one before (the peace deal was signed) 2006," he told journalists in Khartoum.

As a result of the attack, Minawi, now a special advisor to President Omar al-Beshir, cut short a visit to Darfur in which he had been trying to persuade other rebel factions to join this month's peace talks in Libya.

The army spokesperson affirmed Sudanese army keenness on implementation of Abuja Agreement and respect of all the security arrangements that had been agreed upon with Minawi group.

Last week rebel groups accused Sudanese army of attacking AU positions in Haskanita and burning the town. But the army also denied the charges.

(ST)

Enraged militia reportedly threatens South Darfur capital

(ST), October 9, 2007 (LONDON) — The Aegis Trust, a group focused on combating genocide around the world, warned today that the capital of south Darfur Nyala is under imminent threat of attack by a militia enraged by delay in payment of salaries.

"Nyala, Darfur's largest city, is tonight under imminent threat of attack by Janjaweed militia, angry with the Sudanese Government for failure to pay them for their work. This has included systematic attacks on civilians, in addition to support for military operations against African rebel groups."

Aegis said the heavily armed Janjaweed, equipped with gun-mounted jeeps and reported to be up to 800-strong, are from the 'aballa' or militia drawn from the Mahariya, a clan of the Rizeigat tribe. The group's suspected leader, Juma Daglo, is locally understood to be responsible for large-scale human rights violations.

According to the rights group the Janjaweed force is massing near the village of Bulbul, halfway between Nyala and Kass, approximately an hour's drive from either city, both of which are controlled by the Sudanese Government. Kass is home to a fluctuating population of 250,000 – 300,000 people, around 40% of whom are internally displaced Africans who have fled their homes following ethnic cleansing in the region.

Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, is home to a million people. Approximately 200,000 – 300,000 IDPs live in camps in its immediate vicinity, including Kalma, Al Salam, Otash and Deriege. Nyala is also the hub for all AU, UN and INGO operations in South Darfur, and the intended logistical HQ for UNAMID for the whole of Darfur.

“A major attack on Nyala could well result in the total collapse of all aid operations in South Darfur and the withdrawal of INGOs whose work is already heavily incapacitated by insecurity and Government restrictions,” says Dr James Smith, Chief Executive of the Aegis Trust. “This would leave the IDPs at Nyala, and throughout South Darfur, extremely vulnerable to starvation and to attack from Janjaweed and Government forces.”

The World Food Programme has sent the majority of its non-essential staff from Nyala back to Khartoum, as have other agencies, including UNMIS. The UNDP has withdrawn all its staff from Nyala.

(ST)

Eritrean, Libyan leaders discuss Darfur peace talks

(ST), October 9, 2007 (TRIPOLI) — Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and the Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi discussed the forthcoming peace talks set to begin with two weeks in Libya in a bid to end the four conflict in western Sudan.

Afwerki who arrived yesterday to Tripoli, discussed with Gadhafi the ongoing efforts to bring rebel groups to attend Darfur peace talks scheduled on 27 October in Sirte 450 km northwest of Tripoli.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the stance of the two countries concerning regional and international agendas.

Libyan authorities work hard to ensure the success of Darfur negotiations.

(ST)

Rebel SLM-Unity threatens to boycott Darfur peace talks

(ST), October 9, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A key Darfur rebel group warned Tuesday it would not attend upcoming peace talks but instead "spread war" around Sudan if Khartoum did not immediately end reported offensives in the ravaged region.

The warning from the Sudan Liberation Army-Unity faction came as another rebel faction, the only one to have signed a 2006 peace accord with Khartoum, said it might also resume fighting amid the upsurge in violence.

If the offensives continue, the SLM-Unity will "be forced to renounce its engagements toward a ceasefire and work to spread war to other parts of Sudan," SLM-Unity spokesman Mahjoub Hussein said in a faxed statement.

"The movement will suspend its participation at the Tripoli talks" if the Sudanese government and its militias continue their activities, it said, referring to new peace negotiations in the Libyan capital set to start on October 27.

Khartoum's "all-out war" in Darfur "is proof that it wants to flee from the Tripoli talks," Mahjoub said.

The warning came as the SLM faction of Minni Minawi, from which the SLM-Unity split after Minawi made peace with Khartoum, said it might resume fighting after what it said was a government attack on one of its towns that killed over 50 people.

The Sudanese government has denied involvement in the attack.

(AFP)

Sudan army set to attack north Darfur - Amnesty

(ST), Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: October 09, 2007

LONDON, Oct 9, 2007 (AFP) - Sudan's army is preparing to launch deadly attacks in northern Darfur within weeks, rights group Amnesty International claimed Tuesday, calling for UN troops to be rushed to the area.

It cited reports indicating that the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) were gathering "in large numbers" in at least six towns in northern Darfur, including Tine, Kornoy, Um Baru and Kutum.

"The northern area of North Darfur is under the control of armed opposition groups and it looks as though the Sudan Armed Forces want to attack this area before peace talks scheduled to take place in Libya before the end of the month," said Tawanda Hondora, deputy director of Amnesty's Africa programme.

"We fear that civilians will once more suffer killing and displacement, with no force able to protect them."

Specifically, it called for the rapid deployment of UN forces, underlining the "vital importance of ensuring that UNAMID is deployed as soon as possible and has the resources available to protect civilians," said Hondora.

"There is no time for delays. All signs are there that the people living in the northern area are at great risk and extra personnel and helicopters under military command must be urgently deployed to the area as soon as possible."

Sudan youth urge SPLM to organize new election

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The purpose of Juba meeting was to review the progresses made for the last 2 months since they provoked undemocratic elections that brought. Akol Paul Kordit into the seat of youth as a chairman, said Jack Daniels, one of the leaders of this group.

Akol Paul Kordit was elected on July 28 this year.

But the contesters alleged among other claims that the representatives were not chosen based on the party rules of representation. They also claim that many high profile Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) members who organized the election, used their public positions to intimidate voters.

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(ST)

Upsurge in Darfur violence restricts humanitarian access

ST, October 9, 2007 (NAIROBI) — The upsurge in violence in the western Sudanese region of Darfur is further restricting the ability of the few humanitarian workers left to reach thousands of vulnerable civilians, aid workers warned.

"It is difficult to access faraway villages when security is not there," said Cecilia Goin, ICRC spokeswoman in Khartoum. "Darfur is the size of France; it is easier to reach those in need when it is stable."

Orla Clinton, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said there had been a shrinking of the humanitarian space in Darfur, with hijackings having increased by more than 100 percent in August and September. As a result, aid workers were unable to access many of the vulnerable populations in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

Goin said fresh attacks, such as on Muhajiriya, South Darfur, this week sent thousands of civilians fleeing their homes, and made it less safe for humanitarian workers. Some 45,000 IDPs were being assisted in the town, but OCHA said it was not possible to confirm new displacement figures.

According to the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), the attack on Muhajiriya left at least 40 people dead. The town is controlled by the SLA faction of Minni Minnawi, who signed a May 2006 peace deal and joined the Khartoum government.

"The fighting was between Arab communities, supported by the government, and Minnawi's militia," said an aid worker in Nyala, 80km to the west. "There are reports of a large number of casualties, but we have no confirmation."

A separate attack on 29 September in the South Darfur town of Haskanita that left 10 African Union soldiers dead and the town destroyed, sent an estimated 7,000 civilians fleeing from their homes.

"The displaced civilians scattered into the surrounding villages after their town was occupied by Sudanese forces," said another aid worker in the region. "It is difficult to know exactly who destroyed their houses; access is very difficult. And there is plenty of water in the area which limits movement."

A UN assessment team found that the market had been looted. "Few civilians had returned in search of food and water," it said in a statement. Sudanese officials, however, told local media in Khartoum that the market caught fire, and said the UN assessment team had exaggerated the extent of destruction of the town.

A source at the AU said it would take some time to determine what exactly had happened in Haskanita. The attackers destroyed buildings and armoured personnel carriers. They also stole equipment, including arms. The deaths brought to 28 the number of AU peacekeepers killed since the mission was deployed in 2004.

HYBRID FORCE

The incident, a top UN Official said, underscored the need to ensure the proposed UN-AU mission (UNAMID) would deploy troops that would be "very mobile with a capacity to dominate any situation". But the mission still lacks ground transport, light tactical helicopters and transport helicopters, said the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Affairs, Jean-Marie Guéhenno.

"These capacities are vital," Guéhenno told reporters in New York. "If we don't have the force enablers, I am concerned that the mission will be unable to deliver on the key aspects of its work."

The mission, however, was on track to reach its benchmarks for the deployment of initial essential personnel before January, UN Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl Lute said. A technical team was in Khartoum to finalise the deployment plan.

Nigeria, which lost seven men in Haskanita, said it was sending more soldiers to Sudan. Army spokesman Colonel Giwa-Amu issued a statement: "The Nigerian Army

has continued with its peacekeeping mission in Darfur with another batch of 680 soldiers commencing their departure from Nigeria to the crisis-ridden region of Southern Sudan for the United Nations-African Union (UN-AU) peacekeeping operations."

The recent attacks were widely condemned, with the US calling for an immediate end to the cycle of violence in Darfur, and adherence to a ceasefire before the Libya talks. "The people of Darfur have suffered enough," according to the US embassy in Khartoum. "Darfur needs to be built up, not destroyed."

LIBYA TALKS

The SLA said the attacks could damage prospects for peace talks due in Libya on 27 October, but UN and AU officials remained upbeat. Jan Eliasson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, was in Sudan to urge all parties to the political process to seriously prepare themselves for the negotiations.

"More than ever before, the incident in Haskanita calls for political dialogue," said George Ola-Davies, spokesman for the UN-AU Joint Mediation Support Team. "The special envoys are urging all parties to the dialogue to try and be present in Sirte, Libya, from 27 October. The doors are not closed to anybody."

(IRIN)

JEM to participate in Tripoli talks without preconditions

(*AlRai AlAam*), JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein said his Movement will participate in the Tripoli talks on Darfur without preconditions. At the conclusion of a visit to Egypt Hussein said he has a feeling that Egypt has a good understanding on the Sudanese issues especially in respect to need for achieving peace in Darfur.

DPA non-signatories sign "Cairo Call for Peace"

(*Akhbar AlYom*), Representatives of the DPA non-signatory rebel movements have met in Cairo with Egyptian officials and issued a communiqué which includes what they call 'The Cairo Call for Peace' in which they agreed to participate in Tripoli talks and coordinate efforts for achieving peace in Darfur. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION TO FOLLOW.

Hijackings, Robberies, Beatings Disrupt Aid Operations in Darfur

(*VoA*), By Joe De Capua, Washington, 09 October 2007, De Capua interview with OXFAM mp3

Humanitarian agencies say insecurity in Darfur, such as truck hijackings and robberies, continues to hinder their operations and puts their staffs at risk.

Oxfam is one of the agencies working in Darfur. Spokesman Alun McDonald spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about conditions there.

“The biggest security concerns at the moment are just attacks on our staff and our vehicles. We rely nearly totally on helicopters and air travel to get to places. We very rarely use the roads because our vehicles get hijacked and our staff get robbed. These hijackings are becoming increasingly violent. I mean they have been shot, attacked or beaten up in these incidents. It’s really limiting in terms of the number of people that we can reach (and) the areas that we can access. Particularly in rural Darfur, large parts of the region are almost out of bounds for aid agencies now,” he says.

The recent attack on an AU base in Darfur that left at least 10 peacekeepers dead has had a demoralizing effect. McDonald says that “the general violence in Darfur and attacks on aid workers, attacks on civilians, attacks on AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan), the fighting between the factions” are having a negative effect on aid workers’ morale and confidence...staffs are very frustrated. They are very demoralized. They came to work in areas where four million people are dependent on aid agencies for assistance. And yet they’re not being able to do the work they came to do because of security problems.”

OXFAM helps about 400,000 people in Darfur, but with insecurity access is described as “irregular.” Efforts to distribute mosquito nets and help with malaria prevention are on hold in some places.

McDonald says the only way to improve aid operations is for all sides in the Darfur conflict to just stop fighting.

Thailand commits 800 troops to AU-UN mission in Sudan

BANGKOK, Oct 9, 2007 (AFP) - Thailand's cabinet on Tuesday committed to sending 800 troops to join a UN-African Union peacekeeping force due to begin operating in Sudan's strife-torn western Darfur region later this year.

Thai troops would join the so-called AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) before the end of the year and stay for 12 months, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Thailand has the capacity, both personnel and equipment, to join UNAMID in order to support the UN's role to maintain international peace and security," it said. "The mission will also help strengthen the ability of Thai personnel."

The troop deployment will cost Thailand 350 million baht (10.2 million dollars) for the first six months, but the foreign ministry said that the costs would be refunded by the United Nations.

"By joining the joint operations there, Thailand will have a chance to strengthen political and economic cooperation with Sudan and other African nations," it said.

The UN and the AU have so far agreed to accept troops from at least 16 countries, mostly from Africa but also from Bangladesh, Jordan, Nepal, the Netherlands and Scandinavian countries.

The vulnerability of the current AU force was underlined late last month when a rebel faction stormed one of their camps, killing 10 peacekeepers.

Aid workers evacuated from attacked Darfur town: UN

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: October 09, 2007

KHARTOUM, Oct 9, 2007 (AFP) - Twenty-nine relief workers employed by two humanitarian groups have been evacuated from Mohajiriya in the south of Sudan's war-torn Darfur region after an attack on the town, a UN spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

"The 29 people, expatriates and locals, have been evacuated from Mohajiriya and temporarily settled in Nyala", the main town of South Darfur state, said Radhia Ashuri, spokeswoman with the **UN mission** in Sudan.

She refused to say with which two non-government organisations the 29 were working, nor their nationalities, on security grounds.

The attack on the town was confirmed in cautious terms by the **UN mission** which wrote in its bulletin on Tuesday that "according to initial information, clashes took place on October 8 in and around Mohajiriya between the Sudan Liberation Army -- SLA/Mini Minawi and those who seem to be tribal militia."

It added that no verified information had been received so far on the circumstances of the clashes and possible casualties. It did not mention any participation by Sudanese Armed forces in the clashes.

The Sudan Liberation Movement and its armed branch, the Sudan Liberation Army, accused the army and its Janjawid militia of staging the attack in which it said 48 civilians and four of their fighters had been killed.

Late on Tuesday, the Sudanese army denied any involvement in the fighting, saying it was "clashes between tribes in the region".

In a statement carried by the official Suna news agency, it said: "The armed forces have nothing to do with what took place in the Mahajiriya region and have not intervened at all."

The SLM/SLA is the sole rebel group in Darfur to have signed a peace deal -- in 2006 - - with the Khartoum government.

Earlier on Tuesday, SLM spokesman Seifeddin Harun called the attack a "flagrant violation" of the 2006 peace deal aimed at ending a conflict that has left at least 200,000 people dead.

The group's military commander warned that any further attack would lead to the resumption of war.

"From now on, our movement will not stand by and do nothing in the face of such attacks," said Arku Suleiman Dhahia, commander in chief of the SLA.

"If this happens again, we go back to square one which means war and it will be worse than the one before (the peace deal was signed) 2006," he told journalists in Khartoum.

Nigeria sends 200 soldiers to Darfur as part of 680 troops to join peace force

Text of report by Nigerian newspaper Vanguard website on 8 October

[Report by Kenneth Ehigiator: "200 Soldiers Leave for Darfur"]

FIVE days after the burial of seven Nigerian soldiers killed by rebel forces in Darfur, Sudan, about 200 troops are this morning jetting out to the area to replace others being sent home on routine deployment.

The troops from the Army unit in Badagry, Lagos State, were to have left for Darfur last Saturday, but for the failed arrival of the United Nations aircraft meant for the purpose.

Consequently, the troops slept at the Nigerian Airforce Wing of the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, where they were mobilised for take off today by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 81 Division, Major General Azubuike Iheajirika.

Iheajirika said the killing of the seven Nigeria soldiers during last week was not enough to deter the troops as, according to him, Nigerian troops will not shy away from the task of restoring peace in Africa.

He said: "The Army is not in any way discouraged because peace is the ultimate reason for the establishment of the Armed Forces. And in the present global setting, peace support operation has assumed the primary role of the Armed Forces.

"Previously, the major concern was defence against external aggressions, so the peace keepers themselves know that they are doing risky jobs and they also know that through their efforts, thousands of lives are saved, so there is no way we can be discouraged from this lofty goal of striving for peace in Africa."

Major General Iheajirika, in the light of last week's killing of the seven Nigerian soldiers, advised the troops to pay more attention to minor tactics, protect themselves as well as protect the lives of the people they were meant to defend.

He told newsmen that the 200 troops leaving for Darfur today were part of the total 680 troops set for the ongoing peace keeping mission in Darfur, adding that those leaving the country formed the core of the first wave of the troops meant for Darfur operation.

Source: Vanguard website, Lagos, in English 8 Oct 07

BBC Mon AF1 AFEauwaf 091007/job

Sudan: Egyptian foreign minister, Darfur rebels meet in Cairo

Text of report by state-owned Sudanese radio on 9 October

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt yesterday in Cairo held talks with the heads of the Darfur rebel groups as part of Egypt efforts' aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere for the success of the Sirte [peace] talks in Libya by the end of October.

For their parts, the leaders of the Darfur rebel groups pledged to attend the peace talks in Sirte, expressing their desire to reach a peaceful and a prompt solution [to the Darfur conflict]. They also stressed their full commitment to the unity of Sudan.

Source: Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 9 Oct 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007 /ak/mp

Sudan: Darfur rebel group ready for peace talks in Libya

Text of report by state-owned Sudanese radio on 9 October

Harun Abd-al-Hamid, an official in the Foreign Office of the Justice and Equality Movement, has said they are ready to attend the forthcoming talks in Libya without any precondition.

In an interview with the radio, he stressed the need for a cease-fire, for the armed groups to unite and for all the people of Darfur to be included in these talks.

Source: Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 gmt 9 Oct 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007/ra

Sudan: Darfur authority reportedly boycott Arab donor conference

Text of report by populist Sudanese newspaper Al-Watan on 9 October

The Transitional Darfur Regional Authority [TDRA] has announced that it will boycott the Arab conference to support and resolve the humanitarian situation in Darfur which is currently mobilized by the network of Darfur organizations.

The head of the TDRA's legal office Abd-al-Aziz Sam said that the gatherings of organizations at Friendship Hall were of no concern to the TDRA despite the fact that it is being conducted in a way which implies that the activities are being carried out in coordination with the TDRA and [former Darfur rebel] Sudan Liberation Movement.

Sam further called on Arab donors to abstain from assisting the organizations leading the campaign and to direct their assistance to Darfur through the TDRA's institutions in its capacity as the mechanism which would lead to the development in Darfur.

Sam, who was talking at a press conference held at the TDRA offices in Al-Amarat [in Khartoum] yesterday, said the organizations participating in the activities in Friendship Hall were fictitious and were seeking funds in the name of the Sudanese people and those affected by war in the east, west and south.

Source: Al-Watan, Khartoum, in Arabic 9 Oct 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007/aa/se

Sudan: Darfur ex-rebel movement says could "withdraw from government"

Excerpt from report by private Sudanese newspaper Al-Ra'y al-Amm on 9 October

The [former Darfur rebel] Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] led by Mani Arkoi Minawi has accused the government of attacking Muhajiriyah town in South Darfur State.

The movement moved quickly to convene an emergency meeting of the SLM leadership during which the attack was described as subverting the Abuja agreement.

The movement further threatened to withdraw from the government of national unity.

The member of the SLM's political bureau for the Abuja agreement, Ali Tarayu, told Al-Ra'y al-Amm that what had occurred was a clear attempt to subvert the Abuja agreement.

He further left the door open to a number of options the SLM would take including withdrawing from the government of national unity. "All options are possible," Tarayu said adding "our sources informed us that the government said the attack was carried out on the pretext that the AU had requested protection for its forces."

He further denied there were any security threats against the AU in the town and described their relationship [with AU] as good and denounced the attack against Muhajiriyah.

Tarayu further demanded an emergency meeting of the cease-fire committee in Al-Fashir to investigate the incident because he said there would be no time for delays.

He further urged the international community to urgently deploy the hybrid troops saying that the government did not have the will to finalize the political process.

Tarayu said losses in Muhajiriyah were still being assessed. [Passage omitted.]

Source: Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 9 Oct 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007/se/aa

Darfur rebels' field commanders reportedly holding unification talks

Text of report by pro-government Sudanese Media Centre website on 9 October

The Darfur armed movements have advanced in their talks to unify all factions ahead of Tripoli talks.

In a statement to SMC, the commander of [Sudan Liberation movement] 19 group, Khamis Abdallah Abkar said the consultations held by the field commanders of four factions in Bi'ir Mazah in northern Darfur was aimed at coming up with one negotiation stand, even if that means forming one negotiation team.

For his part, Commander Adam Ali Showqar did not rule out the unification efforts to be transferred to Libya if the [commanders] will not agree, saying that the aim of moving to Libya was to expand the consultation so as to involve the political leadership of the movements.

he added "That was what we promised the international community in Arusha declaration, and we will try to unite soon."

Source: Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 0000 gmt 9 Oct 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 091007/aa

AU chief mediator urges all Darfur "parties" to attend Tripoli peace talks

Text of report in English by state-owned Sudanese news agency Suna website

The special envoy of the African Union for Darfur, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, and the UN Special Envoy for Sudan, Jan Eliasson, and the Commissioner for the African Peace and Security, Said Djinnit, have held series of meetings and closed-door consultations in the past two days as part of their intensive efforts to pave the way for the peace talks between the government of Sudan and the armed movements of Darfur, scheduled in Tripoli at the end of the current month, said an informed source.

The special envoy of the African Union to Darfur, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, said in a press statement that the meeting aimed at coordinating the international mediation efforts toward success of the coming peace talks in Tripoli.

Salim explained that they are working to convince all the factions to take part in the coming peace talks, a rare and last opportunity to achieve peace in Darfur.

He urged all the Sudanese parties and those who are concerned with peace and security in Darfur to seize the opportunity to reach an end for the crisis in Darfur.

Dr Salim said that the meeting touched at the recent developments in Darfur, explaining that the heinous incident of attack on the African Union troops in Haskanita, which claiming lives of several these forces, was condemned by the meeting in a view that such an attack would never contribute to the stability and peace of Darfur.

Dr Salim described the situation in the region as very difficult and witnessing number of challenges, stressing the necessity of pushing ahead for success of the coming political negotiations.

A number of rebel factions in Darfur have declared that they will participate in the peace talks in Tripoli, following their meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, excluding the faction of Abd al-Wahid Muhammad Nur who still confines his participation in the peace negotiations to deployment of the hybrid forces before the start of the talks.

This condition put him under bitter international, regional and local criticism. Meanwhile, media and political circles held those rejecting participation in Tripoli peace talks responsible for the recent attacks against the base of the African Union troops in Haskanita in Darfur region.

Source: Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 9 Oct 07

Some 800 Rwandan troops to leave for Darfur

Excerpt from report by Felly Kimenyi entitled "New RDF battalion for Darfur this month" published in English by Rwandan newspaper The New Times website on 10 October

Regional: A fourth Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) battalion will be airlifted to the Sudanese war-ravaged region of Darfur this month, Military Spokesman Maj Jill Rutaremara has said.

The 800-strong battalion is an addition to three others that are already deployed in Darfur and it is set to operate under the mandate of the approved hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force.

"The 55th battalion will go in the second shift during the regular rotation programme which will start on October, 15," Rutaremara said yesterday.

The battalion, he said, will be backed by a heavy support package, and will be deployed in Sector One, Al-Fashir.

It will be under the command of Lt-Col Bukenya Ngarambe, he added.

"Eighteen APCs (Armored Personnel Carriers) are already in the country and will be used by this battalion. They will be transported by a cargo aircraft," Rutaremara said.

The troops, which rotate after every six months will be airlifted by Miami Air International, which has been facilitating the airlifting. [Passage omitted]

Source: The New Times website, Kigali, in English 10 Oct 07

BBC Mon AF1 AFEau ME1 MEEau 101007 or

AU confirms bombing raid on Darfur town

ST, October 9, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's army bombed Muhajiriya, the main Darfur town held by the only rebel faction to sign a 2006 peace deal with Khartoum, injuring at least two dozen people, the African Union force commander said on Tuesday.

Martin Luther Agwai, who will also command a 26,000-strong joint U.N.-AU force due to take over from the AU, said it was not yet clear why the fighting began on Monday, but initial reports indicated it could be tribal rivalries or a spillover from government clashes with other rebel factions.

"Yesterday ... I was informed that there was some bombing and military activity in the area of Muhajiriya," he said of the raid which is a violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution that banned Khartoum from offensive flying.

Agwai said civilians converged on the nearby AU base for safety. His troops treated about two dozen injured civilians and combatants but did not allow them to enter the base.

The town, in South Darfur, is held by the Sudan Liberation Army faction led by Minni Arcua Minawi who signed a May 2006 peace deal and joined the Khartoum government.

His group called the attack a "stab in the back of the Darfur peace agreement".

"It is sad that as we are looking forward to Libya that people have engaged themselves in this activity causing destruction and loss of lives," Agwai said.

"I just hope that all of us will lay down our arms and work together to find a comprehensive peace agreement."

(Reuters)