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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations

UN rights chief says hundreds died in Darfur attack

(*Reuters* – 9th Oct. Geneva) The United Nations human rights chief said on Monday "several hundred" civilians — far more than first thought — may have died in a late August attack by militias in the south of Sudan's violent Darfur region.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Louise Arbour, said the attacks appeared to have been carried out with the "knowledge and material support" of the government.

"The attacks ... were massive in scale, involving a large number of villages, and were carried out over only a few days. Government knowledge, if not complicity, in the attacks is almost certain," the OHCHR said in a report.

"The (OHCHR) ... is urging the government of Sudan to order an independent investigation into recent militia attacks that may have left hundreds of civilians dead in south Darfur," it said in an accompanying statement.

Early last month the High Commissioner's office put the possible death toll from raids near Buram at 38. Many of the 10,000 people in the 45 villages targeted in the attacks, which began on August 28 and lasted into September, were forced to flee.

But it revised the toll in its latest report on the situation in Darfur, drawn up together with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sudan, and based on interviews with survivors of the attacks and other sources.

"The large-scale assaults resulted in chaotic displacement, widespread separation of families and scores of missing children," the report said. "Most of the villages attacked were under government control," it added.

** Please see full text of the OHCHR report in separate attachment*

UN to move 40,000 Sudanese refugees deeper in Chad

(*Reuters* – 10th Oct. Geneva) The United Nations said on Tuesday it would urgently move more than 40,000 Sudanese refugees deeper into Chad after weekend fighting at the border.

Sudanese rebels opposed to a recent peace deal in Darfur clashed with government troops near Sudan's border with Chad on Saturday, more "evidence of the destabilisation" in the volatile region, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

The UNHCR, which runs Oure-Cassoni camp just 5 km (3 miles) from the border, said the Chad government agreed it could survey land near Biltine town to build new refugee sites further inland.

"The ongoing deterioration in security in Darfur and increasing insecurity throughout eastern Chad highlights the urgent need to move Sudanese refugees in Oure-Cassoni camp further

away from the border," UNHCR spokeswoman Jennifer Pagonis told a news briefing in Geneva.

Oure-Cassoni camp holds 26,300 Sudanese refugees, while 16,500 compatriots staying in Am Nabak camp, some 18 km from the border, will also be moved, according to the agency.

The majority of UNHCR's 12 camps in eastern Chad, which hold 213,000 Sudanese who have fled fighting at home, are at least 50 km inland — where Pagonis said refugees were less vulnerable to border clashes and attempts by rebel movements to recruit them.

She said UNHCR would try to identify new sites in the hostile, desert-like region with sufficient water and firewood.

"With the deteriorating of the security situation, it is now urgent that the relocation take place and we are preparing plans accordingly," Pagonis said.

Another spokeswoman, Helene Caux, said the UNHCR hoped to move the refugees to existing camps or to temporary transit sites "within weeks", until a proper camp site is developed.

United Nations calls for a ceasefire in Darfur; African Union to investigate clashes

Spokesperson Radhia Achouri of the UNMIS yesterday called upon the parties to the conflict in Darfur not to adopt a military solution to the conflict but to instead observe the ceasefire. She said that the escalation of military action would only complicate the crisis.

Speaking to *AlAyaam* daily, the spokesperson lamented the clashes that have occurred since 7th October and said Darfur faces a bleak future and would leave behind many civilian deaths should the parties to the conflict continue in the military path.

On the casualty statistics following the Kariyari clashes between government forces and the NRF, Ms. Achouri said that there are conflicting reports on the statistics but it is confirmed that the NRF has captured Kariyari.

The African Union says it is carrying out investigations into reports of these clashes in North Darfur.

United Nations experts recommend sanctions on government officials

A team of United Nations experts has recommended sanctions on high-rank Sudanese government officials for hampering efforts for peace in Darfur.

Quoting the CNN, *AlAyaam* daily says that the representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations criticised the recommendations and branded them as unacceptable.

He pointed out that the list contains top government officials and wondered how the problem of Darfur can be resolved if such a list with the name of the president and other top officials was tabled before the Security Council.

Asked whether the Sudanese president was listed, the Qatari ambassador replied, "everybody is listed".

He also accused the panel of experts of bias.

US representative, Ambassador John Bolton, has welcomed the recommendations and said that the imposition of sanctions against top government officials in Khartoum may lead to a positive outcome that may lead to an agreement with the Sudan government.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Qatar launches initiative to avert a confrontation with the international community over Darfur

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail told the press in Khartoum yesterday that Qatar will sponsor dialogue aimed at finding a solution to the problems of Darfur, reports *AlAyaam*.

The presidential advisor said that the Sudan was ready for dialogue over the issue be it with the United Nations or the US Administration.

On the other hand, Senegalese president, Abdoulaye Wade, called his Libyan counterpart yesterday and had a lengthy discussion focusing on what role the African Union should play in Darfur.

The two leaders also underlined the need to know the truth about the realities of the situation on the ground in Darfur.

Sudan to regard any TCC for a UN Darfur forces as at war

Sudan has warned it would consider itself at war with any country that would contribute troops to an envisioned United Nations force for Darfur, *AlWihda* reports.

Chief government negotiator at the Abuja talks, Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa, told *AlIhram* of Egypt during a quick visit there that, in response to the meeting between US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and representatives of potential troop contributing countries, President Bashir had sent messages to the leaders of these countries explaining the current situation in Darfur, the agreement signed in May, efforts by the government to realise a comprehensive peace and the functions of the African Union troops in the region.

In that letter, adds Khalifa, President Bashir had also warned that Sudan will consider itself at war with any state that contributes troops to the United Nations Darfur force that Sudan rejects.

Asked on what steps the government intends to take, Dr. Khalifa announced that the President of the Republic will soon launch an initiative for Darfur.

In answer to a question by *AlSharq AlAwsar* on government reactions to the requests by some parties that government should re-open negotiations on the Darfur Peace Agreement especially now that the NRF has declared readiness to talk, Khalifa described the Darfur Peace Agreement as the basic point of reference for solutions to the problems of Darfur and pointed out that the NRF is not recognised by anyone and is not a signatory to the Darfur Peace Agreement. He described the NRF as a terrorist organisation and pointed out that it has attacked the African Union and looted civilians.

He said that anyone who wants to sit for talks with the government must first recognise the Darfur Peace Agreement and then any suggestions it may come up with to better implement the agreement would be acceptable.

Of the security and humanitarian situation, Dr. Khalifa said that these are improving thanks to the efforts by the government. He wondered where the United Nations role was in all this and called on the international organisation to urge the donors to meet the pledges they made.

Dr. Khalifa also took the opportunity to slam the political forces calling for a deployment of a United Nations force to Darfur and noted that their voices have gone down after they realised that public opinion in general and even public opinion within their parties rejects such an intervention.

Sudanese envoy in France for talks over Darfur forces

SudanTribune.com: Presidential envoy, Gazi Salah Eddin Attabani, Tuesday is expected to meet the French foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy to describe why Khartoum rejects the transfer of the African Union forces mandate the UN peacekeepers in Darfur.

French president Jacques Chirac urged Sudan three times during last September to accept the UN forces takeover in Darfur.

Minister Douste-Blazy earlier in September said “Khartoum is going to have to accept the presence of a United Nations force in the region”, adding “There is a humanitarian drama going on in Darfur. It is terrible, disastrous.”

Analyst said Attabani would try to persuade France not to join the tough position adopted by USA and the UK calling for military intervention in Darfur without the consent of the Sudanese government.

CPA

Petroleum Commission meets in Juba

AlRai AlAam: The Petroleum Commission held a one-day “extraordinary meeting” in Juba yesterday during which GoNU and GoSS officials reached important agreement to resolve the differences over by-laws of the commission on oil revenue.

Members of the commission from the GoNU and the GoSS first met Vice-President Kiir in Juba who expressed appreciation for the visit which he said would further consolidate trust between the GoNU and the GoSS.

Tilara Deng, the State Minister for the Presidency, said following the meeting of the commission that many contentious issues such as the by-laws of the commission, the oil contracts (*should the federal Ministry of Energy and Mining or the Petroleum Commission be responsible for negotiating oil contracts with foreign parties, etc.*) had been resolved. The state minister however declined to elaborate.

The state minister further pointed out that the two sides agreed to list down today their points of convergence and divergence before the forthcoming meeting between President Bashir and Vice-President Kiir.

He described this as a first step towards resolving outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA.

Telara Deng condemns professor Ibrahim’s statement on CPA

The State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic, Tilara Deng, has strongly condemned the statement made by Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, a senior member of the National Congress Party, to the effect that the National Congress Party would cancel the CPA if the SPLM supports the deployment of a United Nations force in Darfur, reports the *Khartoum Monitor*.

“No single party, whether the National Congress Party of the SPLM, has the right to unilaterally abrogate the CPA which anyway does not belong to the National Congress Party of the SPLM only but to the entire Sudanese people”, said Deng.

State minister Deng said that the views expressed by the SPLM in support of a United Nations troop deployment to Darfur, whether right or wrong, is the view of the Movement.

Mr. Deng said that such statements should be condemned in the strongest terms and pointed out that they amount to a declaration of war.

27 injured in tribal clashes in South Kordofan

The Government of South Kordofan managed to restore order following tribal clashes between Misseiriya herders and Nuba pastoralists in South Kordofan, reports *AlHayat*.

6 members of a mediating tribe were killed alongside 7 of the pastoralists and 14 citizens injured as a result of the clashes sparked by an incursion by the herders on pastoral land.

The *Wali* of South Kordofan said that the issue has been resolved and a permanent mechanism formed of the security, local leaders and conflict management experts to avert such problems in future and resolve them should they occur.

GoNU

Minister of Defence accuses Chad of handing over a SAF officer to the NRF

Defence minister Abdul-Raheem Mohamed Hussein says that clashes between the government and NRF fighters at Kariyari, 20 kms. North of the border town of el-Teina, are still ongoing, reports *AlIntibaha*.

He rebuffed the announcement by Khalil Ibrahim that NRF combatants had captured 350 SAF combatants. He also said that SAF commander AbdelRahman Mohamed AbdelRahman whom the NRF had claimed to have captured had in fact handed himself over to Chadian authorities who in turn handed him to the NRF – something he described as a gross violation of the agreements signed between the two countries.

He said the government is in contact with authorities in Chad over this issue.

Chairman of the Parliamentary information committee decries attacks on media freedom

The SPLM's Deputy Secretary-General and chairman of the National Assembly Information Committee, Hon. Yasir Arman, paid a courtesy call to the *Khartoum Monitor* premises yesterday, Monday October 8, in the company of National Parliament Member, Hon Siddiq Hassan Mussad .

Talking to Khartoum Monitor 's chief Editor ,Mr.Alfred Taban ,Hon Arman said 'I have come to express my concern and solidarity with the paper over the routine attacks on the freedom of

the media, threats to violate the National Constitution and especially the Bill of Rights, which contains freedom of expression and of the press'

National Press and publication Council closes down six papers

Sudan Tribune: The National Press and Publication Council has affirmed the decision for the withdrawal of the licenses of six newspapers including 5sports papers and one political daily, as some journalists from the Council's register.

The President of the Council, Prof Ali Shommo, indicated at the press conference held yesterday at the head offices of the Council that the decision resulted from unethical and unprofessional practices by the said journalists and news papers which have steadily increased of late. He went on to indicate that the present law empowers the Council with the right to suspend the issue of these papers.

Dr. Turabi says "Salvation" regime has wiped out Islam from the Constitution

The leader of the Popular Congress Party says the current government has wiped any reference to Islam from the National Constitution, reports *AlKhartoum*.

Dr. Turabi who was speaking yesterday at a symposium organised by his party said that he believes that the GoSS has tried to distance Muslims from all constitutional positions in order to silence the voice of Islam but, he adds, peace is still being celebrated in the country.

He further pointed out that among the lessons learnt from the history of Islam is that *Jihad* is not measured by the number of *Mujahideen* but by the amount of faith they have.

Southern Sudan

No peace in Uganda unless ICC charges dropped - LRA

(*Reuters* – 9th Oct. **Juba**) Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels reiterated a threat on Monday to keep fighting one of Africa's longest insurgencies unless international arrest warrants for their top commanders are scrapped.

LRA leader Joseph Kony and deputy Vincent Otti have refused to leave their jungle hideouts on the Sudan/Congo border to talk directly, fearing arrests over war crimes indictments against them by the Hague-based International Criminal Court.

"They should not expect us to sign an agreement and later cage our leaders in The Hague. Our leaders are not fools," LRA spokesman Godfrey Ayoo told journalists in Juba.

The charges against five top LRA commanders are seen as a test case for the fledgling human rights court, but many Ugandans see it as an obstacle to a long-awaited peace deal.

"As long as the ICC indictments still stand, no single soldier is going to come out of the bush. This is the position we have taken and it will not change," Ayoo said.

Despite a ceasefire, tempers have frayed between the LRA and the Ugandan army in the past two weeks.

The government accuses the LRA of failing to gather in two meeting points in southern Sudan agreed under the truce and has threatened to attack any LRA still in northern Uganda.

The LRA accuses the army of surrounding their fighters in the meeting points, planning an attack.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan accepts to compensate Darfur IDPs - AU official

(*SudanTribune.com* – 9th Oct. **Khrt.**) The African Union announced that Sudan accepted the individual compensation for the affected people in Darfur, saying this would help to convince the holdout rebel groups to join the peace deal.

Chairman of the African Mission in Sudan and head of Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) implementation team Ambassador Sam Ibok has affirmed that the African Union is endeavouring to convince rebel groups that did not sign DPA to join the DPA.

He indicated in a statement to the official SUNA that the government's readiness to compensate the affected people. The question of the individual compensation is one of the majors' demands of the rebel groups.

Actually, the Darfur displaced persons have lost everything during the Janjaweed militias attacks against their villages. When official speak about peace to them, the IDPs say what peace it is. We are still under militia attacks and we have no money to rebuild our home or cultivate our land.

Ibok said there are consultations between the government and some African countries to contribute to resolving Darfur crisis, pointing out that heads of state of some African countries will arrive in Sudan in the coming days.

The presidents of Senegal, Nigeria and Gabon are to travel to Khartoum "shortly" for talks with their Sudanese counterpart Omar el-Bashir about ending the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, the Senegalese foreign ministry said Saturday.

He said the expected visit of an AU envoy to Khartoum in the coming days comes in the framework of the continuous consultations between the government and the AU to remove impediments affecting implementation of the DPA.

Ibok further said that the UN Secretary General and the Chairman of the AU have presented proposals to President Al-Bashir to support the AU in logistic fields, explaining that UN experts would arrive in Sudan in this context.

The AU official pointed out that Sudan's al-Bashir welcomed during meetings with his counterparts during the recent UN General Assembly session in New York any efforts aiming to boosting the African Union mission.

eastern Sudan

Sudan, eastern rebels sign power sharing accord

(AFP – 9th Oct. **Khrt.**) The Sudanese government and eastern rebels late Monday inked a power sharing agreement in the Eritrean capital Asmara after months of peace talks, the official SUNA news agency reported.

The two sides, which have already concluded agreements on security issues and on sharing of resources, will sign an overall peace pact at the end of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, around 22 October.

It gave no details of the latest accord.

The head of the Sudanese government delegation to Asmara talks, Mustafa Osman Ismail, said that president Omar al-Bashir and Secretary General of the Arab League Amr Musa would attend the signing of the peace deal in Asmara.

Other Developments

Coptic Church in Atbara goes down in flames

The Coptic Church in Atbara went up in flames in the early hours of yesterday morning, reports *AlWatan* daily.

This is the first incident of its kind in the state.

The flames turned the church into a pile of ashes and nothing was salvaged.

The chief of the local police force said that preliminary results prove that the fire might have been sparked by an electric short-circuit due to fluctuations in power supply.

Authorities are still trying to assess the damage and the police chief says a team from central forensics in Khartoum is expected in the area to join the investigation.