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United Nations

All Darfur conflict parties breach arms embargo – UN experts

(*SudanTribune.com* – 11th Oct. UN) All parties operating in the Sudan's war-torn region of Darfur are manifestly violating the arms embargo in the region, a UN report said today.

According to the latest report from a panel of experts set up by the United Nations Security Council, all the parties in Darfur conflict including government forces, allied Janjaweed militias, rebel groups and insurgents from neighbouring Chad, are blatantly breaching a UN arm embargo imposed in Darfur.

The panel's report, released Wednesday, found that Chadian rebels are helping to stoke the conflict in Darfur — especially in the region's north and west — by reportedly joining Government forces and the Janjaweed in their operations against rebel groups.

The experts said there are reliable reports that Sudan is re-supplying the Chadian rebels with weapons and vehicles, with weapons and ammunition observed being offloaded at local airports and moved to locations within Darfur, where three years of fighting have killed an estimated 200,000 people and forced another 2 million to leave their homes.

“Credible information” also exists indicating the Government continues to support the Janjaweed, providing weapons and vehicles in breach of its commitments, according to the report.

“The Janjaweed/armed militias appear to have upgraded their modus operandi from horses, camels and AK-47s to land cruisers, pick-up trucks and rocket-propelled grenades,” it stated.

The panel of experts, appointed by the Council last year to monitor the arms embargo and targeted financial and travel-related sanctions, also found that rebel forces have “shown a notable increase in capacity to engage the forces of the Government” since March.

Turning to the financial and travel-related sanctions, the experts said it considered Sudan to have “wilfully avoided” its commitment under the resolution to implement financial sanctions against persons designated by the Council.

They also voiced concern that fighting has increased in recent months because of a major split within rebel movements based on which groups and factions signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in May and which did not.

“Tragically, it is the long-suffering innocent civilians of Darfur who continue to bear the brunt of recent events.”

Greece's Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, Chairman of the Council committee dealing with sanctions concerning Sudan, said in a letter to the Council President that the committee

will consider the panel's many recommendations and then present their views to the full Council.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

IDPs forward pre-requisite demands for an end to the Darfur crisis

(*AlAyaam*) After much haggling, a group representing the committee for the unification of national ranks managed to convince IDPs in el-Geneina that they were a non-governmental body and were only trying to seek solutions to the problems of Darfur.

They were eventually granted an audience with the IDPs.

The IDPs asked the committee to inform the government that the demands they see as key to a gateway to a resolution of the problems of the region are as follows:

- Disarmament of the Janjaweed;
- Individual compensations;
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- Trial for war criminals;
- Clear acknowledgement by the government that it did commit atrocities;
- Guarantees that such atrocities would not be repeated.

IDP representatives told members of the committee that they highly value the trouble the committee took to meet them and hear their grievances but pointed out that the visit came 3 years later and after much killing, displacement, scorched villages and rape.

They said this is a first time a neutral committee came to visit and that all earlier visits only resulted in the conveying of fabricated information to the government which in turn unleashed the Janjaweed to loot and beat them up. They also warned the visitors that they would not be able to go to travel to Mornei IDP camp and those camps outside el-Geneina because they will be beaten up by the Janjaweed.

A local *sheikh* complained of the humanitarian situation in his camp (Kirinding) where agencies have had to cut down humanitarian assistance by 50% last March. Government, he adds, had promised to cover the deficit but nothing is forthcoming so far. He said that the situation would worsen if left to continue like this.

He said that they all want to go back home but need security guarantees.

“If the government can not protect us and the committee could not provide us with guarantees for a life in dignity then let the international forces come in this very day,” concluded the *sheikh*.

The committee promised it would not keep silent on the issue and to forward their case to the government.

Asian, Arab Countries must pressure Sudan on Darfur - UN

(*AP* – 11th Oct. **Geneva**) The governments of Arab countries as well as China, India, Pakistan and Malaysia should put pressure on Sudan to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Wednesday. He said African countries needed to do more as well.

"It's time to make the government of Sudan understand that this U.N. force is a global force," said Jan Egeland, the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

"Help us, because we are desperate here," he told reporters in Geneva. "It is not a western project. It is a global project of solidarity with Sudan and the people of Darfur."

Egeland said the help of these countries was urgently needed because the situation "is getting gradually worse and worse and worse."

"The nightmare we are seeing in Darfur is continuing," he said, adding militias "are more brutal than ever."

Egeland said the violence has had severe humanitarian consequences, citing recent violence in South Darfur that caused aid workers to flee, leaving some 130,000 displaced people around the area of Gereida without necessary assistance.

"It was simply too dangerous," Egeland said. He described the gathering of people around Gereida as probably the largest concentration of displaced people in the world.

Egeland said it was a bad signal that the U.N. Human Rights Council last week failed to take action on human rights violations in the country.

"It's a shame really that there was no strong statement on Darfur," he said.

The council finished its second session of the year divided between a resolution by the European Union critical of Sudan's government and another supported by African and Muslim countries that went easy on Khartoum.

"You have to have a heart of stone, really, to not understand the situation of the women and children of Darfur," Egeland said.

African mini-summit on Darfur to be held 17 Oct

(AFP – 11th Oct. **Libreville**) The presidents of Sudan, Gabon, Nigeria and Senegal will hold a summit on the Darfur crisis in Khartoum on October 17, a spokesman for Gabon's president said on Wednesday.

Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir will host Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, Gabonese President Omar Bongo Ondimba and Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade for a "committee of the continent's wise".

The meeting, the brainchild of President Wade, was announced on October 7, but no date was set until Wednesday.

Obasanjo on Tuesday warned of a developing "genocide" in Sudan's western Darfur region and urged Khartoum to accept a UN role to help overwhelmed African peacekeepers there.

The United States and some aid agencies have previously defined the Darfur crisis as a genocide, but this is believed to be the first time an African leader used the word.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio was due to arrive in Sudan on Wednesday with his Nigerian counterpart Joy Ogwu to prepare for the meeting.

"Ways and means of dialogue must be found ... to lead President al-Beshir to accept United Nations forces" in Darfur, Gadio said on Tuesday. He judged it "necessary for the continent to make its approach clear, to tell the president (al-Beshir) that the integrity of the (Sudanese) territory is not at issue."

The UN estimates that the civil war and its humanitarian consequences in Darfur, the western region of Sudan bordering Chad, has killed at least 200,000 people since February 2003.

The UN Security Council decided on August 31 to send a force of some 17,000 soldiers and 3,000 police to relieve the African Union Mission, but the Sudanese president fiercely opposed the deployment which he equated to an attempt to recolonise Sudan.

- ❖ Reports *AlAyaam*: African Union president, Dennis Sassou-Nguesso, says the African Union Peace & Security Council is to hold a meeting next month to discuss Darfur. President Sassou-Nguesso announced this following talks with his French counterpart, President Chirac.
- ❖ Al-Tayeb Khamis, spokesman for SLM-Minnawi, has re-affirmed that the SLM is in support of an international intervention in Darfur especially in light of the situation in Darfur, reports *AlIntibaha*. The comment comes following recent press reports (*noted in yesterday's MMR*) that SLM-Minnawi has done a u-turn on its position on international forces.

CPA

SPLA refuses to reintegrate 50% of SAF-aligned militias

(*AlAyaam*) Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang of the SPLA who heads the OAGCC says the SPLA has rejected a SAF request that it integrate within its ranks 50% of SAF-aligned militias.

Ajang pointed out that these militias had been granted the liberty to chose to either join the SAF or the SPLA and chose the SAF and there is therefore no logic behind the SAF request.

Mjr. Gen. Sidiq Amir, a SAF representative at the OAGCC, said that the OAGCC did hold its fourth meeting yesterday in which it discussed the role of the DDR commissions and that the SAF had indeed requested the SPLA to integrate 19,000 militia combatants. He said that the request was on the grounds that these are southern Sudanese combatants whose interests are closely linked to the south and most of them do not want to work in the north.

He said that the SAF would refer the issue to the DDR Commission should the SPLA continue to reject its request for a middle-ground solution.

GoNU

Council of Ministers draws deadline for review of legislation to comply with the CPA

(*AlAyaam*) The Council of Ministers has tasked Vice-President Taha to supervise the work of the ministerial committees for the amendment of legislature to conform to the CPA and has given the committees one month to finish the job.

The Council of Ministers also yesterday endorsed a proposal by the President of the Republic for the reformation of the High Committee for the Implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. The changes mean that the High Committee will be composed of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Republic, the Presidential Assistances and a number of ministers, advisors and governors.

- ❖ Reports *AlAyaam* and *agencies*: US Special Envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsious, is expected in Khartoum within the next two days. *AlSahafa* also reports that the UK has appointed Hillary as Special Envoy to Sudan.

Southern Sudan

Kiir orders investigations into governor's dismissal

(*Sudan Tribune*) First Vice-President Salva Kiir issued yesterday a Presidential Order for the formation of a commission of enquiry into the circumstances which led to the Legislative Council of Eastern Equatoria to relieve the governor of his duties.

The committee is comprised of southern Sudanese lawmakers and other senior GoSS figures and has been ordered to report within 3 weeks.

It is worth mentioning that V-P Kiir's decision comes in light of a memo raised by members of the Legislative Council of Eastern Equatoria State recommending the expulsion of the state governor.

Ugandan rebels won't sign peace deal while facing arrest

(AP – 11th Oct. **Kampala**) Ugandan rebels said Wednesday that if international arrest warrants for their leaders are dropped, they will sign a peace agreement to end a brutal 19 year conflict.

"If ICC drops the case, then we will sign the peace agreement and peace will return to northern Uganda," Godfrey Ayo, a spokesman for the LRA peace negotiating team, told The Associated Press by phone.

"We are not going to negotiate with ropes around our necks," Ayo said.

Tuesday the president of the Hague-based International Criminal Court said countries must help track down and arrest fugitives so they can be brought to justice.

A day earlier, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni accused the rebel group of trying to avoid a war crimes trial for its top commanders by dragging out the talks.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

On the security situation in Darfur

AlAyaam: The Commissioner for Nyala has issued a series of security-related measures banning motor vehicles from going out of Nyala after 15:15 hours and ban in-coming vehicles from going beyond Bulbul and Abu-Ajouza during the specified time.

AlIntibaha reports that the deputy *Wali* of West Darfur said there are indications that Chad is preparing an attack on West Darfur especially around the border areas of Teina and Bahai.

Deputy governor Mohamed Yousif says Chad may probably use the NRF for these attacks.

Meanwhile in Muhajiriya, *AlAdhwaa* reports that 8 people have been killed and 4 others seriously injured in clashes between the NRF and sla-minnawil.

A field officer for the NRF says SLA soldiers were harassing their soldiers and this sparked the clashes.

The officer says an African Union aircraft carried out medical evacuation of the injured to el-Fasher hospital.

Council for the coordination of humanitarian activities is formed

(*AlAdhwaa*) The head of the Coordination Council for Humanitarian Activities says a council has been formed composed of national civil society organisations and workers' groups with the aim of coordinating humanitarian efforts in the states of Darfur.

Mr. Fathi Mohamed Khalifa said that the council was formed because the crisis in Darfur is essentially a humanitarian crisis.

Head of Consultative Council for Arab Tribes calls for *Wali's* resignation

(*Alwan*) The head of the Consultative Council for the Arab Tribes of Darfur has criticised those who support el-Haj Atta-el-Mannan to remain governor of S. Darfur saying that they are people who have individual interests at heart [*the paper gives no clear reason for the demand that the governor step down*].

Engineer Mahmoud Musa who is also a prominent political activist in Darfur said it is not right to brand as "Janjaweed" the Arab tribes of the region. At an interview with *Alwan*, he said that the disarmament of the militias and the Janjaweed have to run concurrently and points out that the arms carried by the Arab tribesmen is for the purposes of defending their property and for self defence.

Asked to comment on speculations that the council is but part of the National Congress Party and on whether they plan to launch a war in the region, Musa said that they are not part of the National Congress Party. On war, he pointed out that the consultative council represents all the Arab tribes of the region and that the situation would have been a lot different if they were involved in the war in the region.