



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN**  
**UNMIS**  
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**(By Public Information Office)**

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**IN THE NEWS TODAY:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **United Nations**
  - ICC must have a visible presence on the ground in Darfur
  - Ugandan govt, LRA rebels peace talks in crucial stage - UN
- **United Nations and the Transition Debate**
  - US envoy in Sudan to persuade Khartoum to accept UN force
  - Chad rebels oppose UN force for Darfur - spokesman
- **GoNU**
  - Authorities free jailed journalist
- **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**
  - Darfur Students' Front warns of imminent collapse of the DPA
  - Former Darfur rebels attack al-Fasher market
- **Eastern Sudan**
  - Sudan, eastern rebels sign peace deal

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **ICC must have a visible presence on the ground in Darfur**

(*AFP* – 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. **The Hague**) The UN's top human rights official, Louise Arbour, said the International Criminal Court (ICC) should be present on the ground in Darfur, in a legal document published Thursday on the court's website.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo has stressed on numerous occasions that it is too dangerous for ICC investigators and local witnesses to meet in Darfur itself.

There have been some ICC missions to the Sudanese capital but none to the Darfur region. Mostly the ICC investigators gathered evidence from Sudanese refugees in neighbouring Chad.

In her so-called amicus curiae brief, a document request by the ICC who wanted to know about the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' experience with investigations of rights violations in war-torn states, Arbour stresses that the ICC should be more visibly present in Sudan.

"The High Commissioner respectfully submits that the security challenges particular to investigation of international crimes while an armed conflict is ongoing should not per se prevent the court from acting in pursuance of its international mandate," Arbour writes.

The ICC launched an investigation into the events in Darfur in June 2005 and has said it has gathered evidence of killing, rape and destruction.

Arbour argues in her brief that the ICC should not only take into account the possible risks to individual victims during an investigation on the ground but also "the advantage to the overall protection of a population that can be derived from an international presence".

"The ICC's presence on the ground would importantly contribute ... to a proactive presence increasing the level of protection perceived and enjoyed by the affected population," the brief summarizes.

#### **Ugandan govt, LRA rebels peace talks in crucial stage - UN**

(*Xinhua* – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Kampala**) The peace talks between the Ugandan government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have reached a crucial stage as the rebels joined force with their leadership in the hideouts, reported State-owned New Vision on Saturday.

"The next weeks will be absolutely crucial for whether or not we can bring to an end one of our generation's worst wars. It is an extremely fragile process," said Jan Egeland, UN's Under-secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, on Friday in Geneva.

Egeland, who has visited northern Uganda a couple of times this year, said "dramatic progress" had been made in peace process though there was a struggle to keep the momentum going.

The newspaper said senior commanders and "genuine" fighters left Owiny-ki-Bul, one of the two assembly zones on the east side of River Nile in southern Sudan, and entered their hideouts

a few days ago in Garamba National Park, northwest of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), joining force with the elusive leaders.

The estimated 200 LRA fighters were reportedly led to Garamba by several senior LRA commanders including Dominic Ongwen, one of the five wanted LRA leaders by the UN's International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Security sources said the rebels travelled northwards from Owiny-ki-Bul and crossed River Nile to Western Equatoria State at a point north of Juba before they entered Garamba, an attempt that had been sternly warned against by the Ugandan military.

The latest development put more pressure on the chief mediator of the talks, Riek Machar and the government of southern Sudan. Last week, SPLA deployed around Owiny-ki-Bul following LRA claims that the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) had besieged them around the assembly zone.

The UPDF has showed concerns on a possible reunification of those who were operating in northern Uganda and southern Sudan with the LRA High Command hiding in the DRC.

The rebel's move to Garamba comes at a time when the LRA has struck a deal to ally with other two rebel factions, the People's Redemption Army (PRA) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in DRC.

During the movement of the group to Garamba, the LRA delegation in Juba said the rebels would not sign a peace agreement with the government if the international arrest warrants for their leaders were not dropped.

## **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

### **US envoy in Sudan to persuade Khartoum to accept UN force**

(*AlAyaam*) US envoy Andrew Natsios started talks yesterday with foreign minister Lam Akol.

The talks mainly focused on UNSCR 1706 and Dr. Akol underlined the need for dialogue instead of confrontation between Sudan and the US.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the US envoy said he is on a fact-finding visit and does not have any specific plan or initiative but only seeks more information to understand the situation on the ground to help him carry out his task.

The foreign ministry spokesperson said that the talks that span an hour also covered bilateral relations between the two countries.

Mr. Natsios' visit to Sudan comes one day after the US president signed a law imposing sanctions against people responsible for genocide and war crimes in Sudan.

*Reuters* reports that the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which passed the U.S. Congress last month with strong bipartisan support, freezes the assets of those deemed complicit in the atrocities and denies them entry into the United States.

It also encourages the Bush administration to deny Sudan's government access to oil revenues.

In addition to signing the legislation last Friday, Bush also signed an executive order that leaves in place the existing sanctions but eases some on parts of southern Sudan. It also includes exemptions to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid to Darfur.

But the order toughens some sanctions, including a provision that bars any American from engaging in oil-related transactions in Sudan.

### **Chad rebels oppose UN force for Darfur - spokesman**

(*Reuters* – 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Dakar**) Chadian rebels oppose the idea of a United Nations peacekeeping force on the Sudan-Chad border because this would obstruct their fight to overthrow President Idriss Deby, a rebel spokesman said on Thursday.

Albissaty Saleh Allazan, who said he was speaking for the military command of the divided Chadian rebel group FUC, said international moves to send U.N. forces to Sudan's violent Darfur border region would help Chad's Deby, and not his foes.

"We of the Chadian opposition fear the presence of U.N. forces in this region. We think that these U.N. forces, who say they would provide security to the people of Darfur, would prevent us from advancing towards (the Chadian capital) N'Djamena," Allazan told reporters in Dakar, Senegal.

## **GoNU**

### **Authorities free jailed journalist**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Authorities in security released yesterday the jailed *AlRai AlAam* reporter, Abu-Obeida Abdalla, after two weeks in jail.

Abu-Obeida told the newspaper he works for that he was arrested on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September when one of the suspects arrested over the beheaded *AlWifaq* editor told investigators that Abu-Obeida told him of the assassination through a telephone call at 8 o'clock in the morning of the assassination.

Abu-Obeida said, when interrogated by security, that he denied having any contact with the suspect and was eventually released.

*Rai AlShaab* meanwhile reports that the Union of Democratic Journalists and Writers has issued a statement condemning the 'Salvation Regime' for arrest and violence against the press and its policies restricting the freedom of the press.

The fraternity has urged all Sudanese journalists to unite to defend the freedom of the press and to investigate the assassination of their beheaded colleague and help bring them to justice.

The union also called for solidarity with Salah Awdaa and Zuhair el-Siraj (prominent columnists) in their calls to secure the release of detained Darfurians.

It also urges humanitarian organizations and the information committee at the National Assembly to give priority to their issues as journalists.

The Minister of Justice has, on the other hand, declined to give any comments on the result of investigations into the assassination of the *AlWifaq* editor and warned the government will deal strongly against defaulters to its recent instructions for a clampdown on the issue.

## **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **Darfur Students' Front warns of immanent collapse of the DPA**

The head of the Darfur Students' Front, Mr Mohamed Alamin Rizig hold the armed groups and the GoS responsible for the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

He described the Abuja talks as an incomplete agreement and only expressive of the ideas of a certain group.

He said that any such agreement is a failure because it doesn't really satisfy the needs of all parties.

### **Former Darfur rebels attack al-Fasher market**

(ST- 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. **el-Fasher**) El-Fasher merchants accused soldiers of a former rebel group of rampaging the capital of North Darfur State market and closed their shops to mark in a sign of protest.

Northern Darfur merchants have presented a protesting memo to state governor Osman Yousif Kibir against the ex-Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Minni Arkoi Minnawi elements for bad performance being practiced by the group in el-Fasher, market.

Merchants closed down their shops in el-Fasher since last night and today because SLM, Minnawi elements, were looting properties from the market, the pro ruling party SMC reported.

The rebel Justice and Equality Movement said in a press statement yesterday that the violence was committed by the Janjaweed militias in the region.

Following the rampage, the Governor Yousif Kibir tried to restrain the attackers. "His attempt to discipline them was cut short. The militia leader said that his instructions come directly from el-Bashir, and not from lowly State Governors like Kibir".

Concordant reports from Darfur say that Minnawi troops are working side by side with the Janjaweed militia and government forces in the region.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Sudan, eastern rebels sign peace deal\***

(Reuters/ lead story in all major local dailies) Eastern rebels and the government of Sudan signed an agreement on Saturday to end a decade of low-level revolt in a region rich in natural resources but beset by poverty.

The agreement was signed in the Eritrean capital Asmara by Sudanese presidential advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail and the head of the rebel Eastern Front delegation Musa Mohammed Ahmed.

Ismail called the deal "a new dawn" and a "road map to stability and development in the east".

Ahmed said: "Our priorities will be rebuilding the east in complete transparency."

The agreement, which sparked singing and dancing after it was signed, is the third peace deal Khartoum has negotiated in less than two years. If fully implemented it will stabilise one of Sudan's most important areas economically.

Sudan's east hosts its largest gold mine, diamond resources and its only port, Port Sudan, where its main oil pipelines feed exports to the outside world. But it is also a deeply impoverished region.

"Eastern Sudan is the most marginalized area in Sudan and by signing this agreement there is admission and recognition of this fact," said Yassir Arman of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which concluded a north-south peace deal with the government in January 2005.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who led the high-level delegation to neighbouring Eritrea which mediated the pact, pledged his government's support.

"We are totally committed to implement this according to the letter and the spirit of the agreement," he told an opening ceremony.

*\* A Special MMR is being compiled on the agreement on eastern Sudan and will be posted tomorrow.*