



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

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **UN could have averted Darfur catastrophe - Minority group**

(AFP – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. **London**) The catastrophe in Sudan's Darfur region could have been averted if the United Nations, world media and human rights groups had picked up and acted on warning signals, a human rights group said.

Minority Rights Group (MRG) accused the international community of failing to learn from the genocide in Rwanda 10 years earlier and to set up a system to predict and thwart escalating ethnic violence.

"Darfur would just not be in this situation had the UN systems got its act together after Rwanda: their action was too little too late," according to Mark Lattimer, the MRG's executive director.

"This level of crisis, the killings, rape and displacement could have been foreseen and avoided," Lattimer said in a statement.

"The warning signs that the conflict was worsening went ignored and the information that trickled in was not effectively used by the international community to prevent the catastrophe."

The MRG report stressed that conflict often arises from human rights violations of minority groups.

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

#### **Council of Minister convenes session; urges for continued campaign on rejection of UN forces**

(Xinhua/ Lead headliner in most major dailies – 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khart.**) The Sudanese government decided on Sunday to continue a diplomatic campaign to refuse UN Security Council Resolution 1706 calling for deployment of international peacekeeping forces in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

The Sudanese government made the decision in a cabinet meeting chaired by First Vice President Mayardit Salva Kiir, according to a press statement issued by the government.

"The Council of Ministers decided that diplomatic contacts will be continuously held with other countries to expound Sudan's vision and its justifications to refuse Resolution 1706," the statement said. The Council also urged for that contacts continue to help bring holdout groups on board.

The Council of Ministers urged for the speedy implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, improvements in the situation on the ground through tribal reconciliation, the provision of humanitarian assistance for the people in Darfur and that security and stability be restored in the region.

President Bashir has also ordered that the high committee for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement be reinstated under his chairmanship and with the membership of his two deputies, his aides and representatives of the GoNU.

Majzoub el-Khalifa\*, Presidential Advisor, said in his briefing before the council on the Darfur Peace Agreement that the government has started to explain the Darfur Peace Agreement to the population in the IDP camps in Darfur and to open the routes for humanitarian assistance.

On disarmament, Dr. Khalifa said that ***a plan to disarm the armed groups in the region*** within two months has been presented to the AMIS Force Commander.

On his briefing on the ***humanitarian situation***, state minister for humanitarian affairs, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, said that all 695,000 IDPs in their camps have access to humanitarian assistance and that the about 665,000 who have been affected and are still in their villages have been given assistance at their villages so they are not compelled to shift to the camps.

*\* The Rai AlShaab daily reports today that North Darfur Governor, Al-Haj Atta-el-Mannan, may succeed Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa as the person responsible for the Darfur portfolio at the National Congress Party. This, says the paper, following rise in number of party members who have recommended that Dr. Khalifa be relieved of the portfolio for his failure to convince the holdout groups to come on board.*

**NOTE:** *In an article, Eric Reeves says, among other things, that SRSB Pronk's recent statements in relation to UNSCR 1706 were "destructive of effective diplomacy". He criticises the SRSB for mishandling the whole issue of a United Nations force in Darfur and deliberately undermining the position of the Secretary-General himself and abandoning the United Nations commitment to UNSCR 1706 in favour of "attempting to augment the African Union-plus". The full 17-page text of Mr. Reeve's article is attached separately.*

## **GoNU**

### **Committee to unite national ranks meets with head and deputy head of security**

Osman Abdalla, the spokesperson for the committee to unite national ranks, said yesterday that the committee held a meeting with the chief and deputy chief of security, reports *AlAyaam*.

The spokesperson described the meeting as "constructive and cordial".

The committee will be heading for Asmara for talks with representatives of DPA holdout groups through Eritrean brokerage.

Osman further said that he presented yesterday his report to the committee on a tour by a sub-committee to the IDP camps in Darfur\*. In his report, he said, he described the situation in the IDP camps in Darfur as past destruction of the social infrastructure and heading towards the destruction of the psychological pillars of the citizens and said that this leads to frustration and loss of trust in the central and regional governments.

The report also noted the absence of humanitarian assistance from Arab and Muslim nations (with the exception of Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) and from European states.

*\* Highlights of the committee's tour of Darfur will be posted in the MMR tomorrow. The local media is turning its focus of late more and more to the activities of the committee.*

### **President Bashir, Minnawi to address consultative meeting on Darfur**

*AlRai AlAam* announces that President Bashir and Senior Aide Mini Minnawi address this morning at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, a consultative meeting of activists from Darfur.

300 political activists from Darfur are expected to participate and articulate their views over the current situation in the region.

### **UK official to arrive in Sudan Monday**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) British Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn will arrive in the country on Monday 16 October for one-day official visit.

Benn will meet the Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir, the First Vice-President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, Presidential aide Nafi Ali Nafi, Foreign Minister Lam Akol and the Minister of International Cooperation, al-Tagani Salih Fidail.

During the meetings, Benn will discuss with Sudanese officials latest developments in Darfur and bilateral ties between Khartoum and London and will then travel to el-Fasher where he will meet the *Wali* and the AMIS Force Commander and will visit the Abou-Shouk IDP camp.

### **Sudan calls for dialogue with US**

(*AFP* – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha called for dialogue rather than confrontation with Washington, amid increasingly chilly relations over renewed US sanctions, official media said.

Taha spoke with United States envoy Andrew Natsios of "the government's desire to have dialogue with the US administration and take bilateral relations from a state of confrontation toward one of dialogue and negotiation," SUNA news agency said.

The report made no reference to the US decision to renew economic sanctions against Sudan, which was announced Friday — the same day Natsios arrived in Khartoum and was snubbed at the airport by Sudanese officials.

Relations between Khartoum and Washington have deteriorated sharply over insistent US-led calls for United Nations peacekeepers to take over from an overstretched African Union observer mission in Darfur.

US President George W. Bush on Friday ordered that all economic sanctions against the Sudanese government be maintained, continuing the freeze on all Sudanese government assets in the US imposed by former president Bill Clinton in November 1997.

The White House also added a ban on all oil and petrochemical transactions.

The US administration, which had already complained of restrictions imposed on its diplomats travelling outside the Sudanese capital, had expressed concern about Khartoum's willingness to cooperate with its new envoy.

Natsios is hoping to visit the war-torn western region of Darfur and the newly autonomous south during his six-day visit, aides told reporters in Washington before his departure.

SUNA also said Britain's International Development Secretary Hilary Benn was to arrive Monday for a visit centered on the troubled Darfur region, where President Omar al-Beshir has

refused to allow the deployment of UN forces despite a UN Security Council resolution and Western pressure.

## **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

### **Minister denies obstructing South Sudan states' constitutions**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Khrt.**) The Minister of Justice, Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi, has denied accusations that his ministry intends to impede the constitutions for the southern states, stressing that the states' constitutions shall harmonize and conform to the national Interim Constitution.

Al-Mardi affirmed the readiness of the federal Ministry of Justice to review the states' constitution drafts and to give its remarks on them before issuing documents of conformity in this regard.

The federal minister was responding to statements given by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development of South Sudan Government, Michael Makwai, who accused the federal Minister of Justice of hampering to the southern states' constitutions.

The Minister of Justice has stressed the necessity of the conformity between all the constitutions of the different states with the National Interim Constitution.

He said that his ministry has only received the constitutions of six southern states out of the 10 states of south Sudan, adding that the federal Ministry of Justice returned the six constitutions for revision.

He said that the Ministry of Justice has issued one conformity documents for Eastern Equatoria State.

The federal Minister of Justice said the remarks that South Sudan minister, Michael Makwai, has rejected were related to federal authorities' competences dealing with: general elections, arrangements and procedures to exercise the right of self-determination, the General Auditor Act.

He also underlined that Abyei area could not be included in any regional state because it has a particular status under the CPA, because it depends directly to the presidency of the republic.

Ali added that some constitutions of southern Sudan states treated things which are already provided by the national constitution such as the states capitals' and their geographical borders.

### **Uganda admits truce violation, saying was mistake**

(*Reuters* - 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Kampala**) Uganda on Sunday admitted violating a landmark truce by deploying too close to a Lord's Resistance Army encampment, but said it was an innocent mistake.

Under the ceasefire, LRA fighters were supposed to assemble at two locations in south Sudan — at Owiny-Ki-Bul, on the Sudan/Uganda border and Ri-Kwangba, on the Sudan/Congo border — without interference from Ugandan forces.

Ceasefire monitors in the south Sudanese government found that 800 LRA who had been gathered at Owiny-Ki-Bul had left, in violation of the truce. They also found the army had violated the truce by driving armed vehicles near the assembly point.

Minister of State for Defence Ruth Nankabirwa told reporters the only time the army was found to have deployed near the LRA was when it offered security to a team of diplomats and journalists on a fact-finding trip to Owiny-Ki-Bul.

"It wasn't intended to breach the agreement. We thought we were facilitating media," she said. "We said we were sorry and acknowledged it. It was honest and innocent."

Nankabirwa reiterated allegations that the LRA had failed to assemble as agreed under the truce and said the group near Owiny-Ki-Bul had tried to cross to the Nile west to join the commanders in their hideouts near the other meeting point.

"We are not satisfied. The LRA has never assembled and that's a breach," she said. "When the LRA moved away, their intention was that they wanted to cross towards their commanders in Garamba (in Congo). They didn't succeed."

Nankabirwa said locals had prevented them from making the trip, but gave no explanation as to how.

She called on the LRA to return to the assembly areas.

### **Governor of Warap State calls on authorities to start disarmament**

In a mass rally in Warap, the Governor of Warap, Anthony Kol, called upon the security authorities in Warap State to take measures to disarm citizens, *AlHayat* reports.

He also called upon the SPLA to evacuate the area to enable the authorities concerned to collect the weapons in order to end the tribal conflicts in the region.

### **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

#### **Abuja holdout groups accept in principle Eritrean initiative for peace**

Following Eritrea's successful mediation in the talks that led to the signing of the Eastern Sudan Peace Accord, the NRF and the two splinter factions of the SLM led by AbdelWahid and Ahmed AbdelShafei have accepted in principle an Eritrean offer to sponsor efforts to bring them on board the DPA, *AlRai AlAam* reports.

Eritrean officials held consultations in Asmara last Saturday with representatives of the NRF and the SLM factions on means to transcend the crisis in Darfur and on what role Eritrea can play to assist.

AbdelShafei says they have agreed in principle but insist none should be left out of the talks.

Quoting sources in the DUP, *AlSahafa* daily reports that DUP leader, Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani, has also been shown the "green light" by the Khartoum government to lead an initiative aimed at a peaceful settlement with the DPA holdout groups.

Representatives of the committee to unite national ranks are also soon to travel to Asmara to join others in efforts to bring the Darfur Peace Agreement holdout groups on board [*please see related story in section on the GoNU*].

Also in efforts along the same line, an African Union official confirmed reports that Sudanese, African and international efforts to persuade the Darfur holdout rebels groups to the Darfur Peace Agreement, reports *SudanTribune.com*.

Head of the African Union team for implementation of Darfur peace agreement (DPA), Ambassador Sam Ibok, said that there is Sudanese efforts led by the First Vice-President and President of South Sudan Government, Salva Kiir, and the Senior Assistant of the President of the Republic and Chairman of the Interim Authority in Darfur, Minni Minawi, to convince Darfur rebel groups opposed to Abuja peace deal to sign the agreement.

Also, he indicated that the African Union, the international community and the European Union have conducted contacts with the holdout rebels to persuade them to join the peace process in Sudan.

### **Islamic OIC head to travel to Sudan for talks on Darfur**

(AP – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Cairo**) The head of the Islamic world's largest organization of countries is set to meet with Sudan's president this week to discuss finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the wartorn Darfur region, the group said Sunday.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu will visit the Sudanese capital Khartoum and meet with President Omar al-Bashir on Tuesday, according to a statement issued by the OIC.

"The visit comes to express the organization's solidarity with the Sudanese republic and to take part in the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution for Darfur crisis," the statement said.

The 57-member group of Muslim nations said the visit will seek ways to provide security and stability in Darfur and guarantee Sudan's sovereignty and independence.