



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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United Nations

SLM releases 50 prisoners

AlSahafa reports that a splinter group of the SLM-Minnawi faction under the leadership of Adam Bakheit revealed that SRSB Pronk, while on his recent visit to Darfur, conveyed to them an initiative from Minnawi to reunify the SLM.

Mohamed Adam, a commander of the SLM faction that now is a faction of the NRF, said that their movement welcomes the initiative in principle and will study it before replying.

The commander said, on the other hand, that the movement will soon release 50 prisoners out of a total of 200 whose names will be published over the papers. The prisoners, said he, will be handed over to the ICRC today ahead of the Eid holidays in response to a plea from First Vice-President Salva Kiir.

** Also see below on the Commentaries section some further reaction to Mr. Pronk's weblog article.*

United Nations and the Transition Debate

EU says only a United Nations force can keep the peace in Darfur

Quoting agencies, *AlSahafa* says the EU urged yesterday the Sudan government to accept a deployment of an international force to Darfur in order to bring an end to the violence in the region.

Speaking to the press, Finland's Prime Minister told a press conference in the Finnish capital where the EU summit is currently taking place that they believe that only a United Nations force is capable of keeping the peace in Darfur.

The expressed concern over the developments in Darfur and called upon the international community to exert more pressures on the Sudan government to accept a transition.

US should support African Union forces in Darfur - Egypt

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21st Oct. **Cairo**) Egypt has advised the United States to stop pressures on the Sudanese government over the UN takeover from the AMIS in Darfur suggesting support for the African forces at the current stage instead.

In talks with the US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, the Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Aboul Gheit said his country focused on the importance the international community supports the African Union forces at the present stage and bring Darfur holdout rebels to join Darfur Peace Agreement, besides the immediate convocation of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Conference.

The Egyptian minister affirmed the importance of solving Darfur issue through negotiations away from pressures. He referred in this respect to contacts Egypt is making with the Security Council members, UN and other international parties to present alternatives and formulas that

can contribute to solving the dispute on the transfer of the mandate of peacekeeping in Darfur to the UN.

Following the meeting, the Egyptian foreign minister said in press statements that he proposed to the US official some ideas that Egypt believes they could solve the issue resulting of Sudan's rejection to the UN forces in Darfur and the stance calling for deploying them.

Natsios declined to discuss the proposal in detail, saying the U.S. would mull this proposal which he described as "very constructive." A strong peacekeeping force is a must in Darfur to stabilize the situation, Natsios underlined.

CPA

JDB requested to expedite deployment of JIUs to South Kordofan

Quoting the *Sudan News Agency (SUNA)*, *Akhbar Alyaum* daily reports that the governor of South Kordofan who also is the head of the regional office of the SPLM in that state has revealed that the state's security committee has sent a memorandum to the Joint Defence Board urging the board to expedite the redeployment of Joint Integrated Units to that area.

He pointed out that the memorandum said such a move was necessary in order to control the security situation in the region.

GoNU

Riots in Khartoum as police tries to clear the city centre of vendors

Yesterday, clashes broke out between vendors and police forces in the AlArabi Market in the central Khartoum business district, *Allintibaha* reports.

Police was conducting a routine campaign targeting vendors and beggars and used teargas to bring the situation under control as the culprits resisted.

The ensuing chaos caused much fear in the market.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Salva Kiir demands explanation over reasons for renewal of the arrest by GoSS of NCP officers

(*Alwan*) Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit has called on governors of the southern Sudanese states to explain the reasons for the illegal detention of some National Congress Party officers in southern Sudan.

Mr. Tour Deng, the Deputy Speaker of the GoSS Assembly, called upon National Congress Party officials in southern Sudan to immediately report unbecoming activities against their officials in southern Sudan in order that the proper remedies will be made as soon as possible.

Uganda closes border with Sudan after killings of 38 people

(AP- 21st Oct. **Kampala**) Uganda ordered a temporary closure of its border with Sudan after unknown assailants killed 38 people this past week on roads leading to the main southern Sudanese town of Juba, the army spokesman said Saturday.

The measure has been taken for the safety of people who use the road to Juba, and Ugandan army units near the border are on high alert, army spokesman Maj. Felix Kulayigye said.

He said the border would be reopened when the security situation improves.

Kulayigye said that it was the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army rebel group that carried out the attacks, which he said occurred Wednesday.

Lord's Resistance Army spokesman Godfrey Ayo denied the rebel group carried out the attack, saying they had checked with their fighters in southern Sudan who said they were not responsible.

Hundreds of passengers scheduled to travel to southern Sudan are stranded at the border. Six buses, several taxis and trucks are at the border waiting to be allowed to travel to Juba, Sudanese businessman Tolbert Tabani told The Associated Press on the phone from the border town of Nimule.

Boat collision kills at least 50 south Sudan soldiers

(Reuters – 19th Oct. **Khrt.**) At least 50 soldiers from the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army drowned in southern Sudan after two steamboats collided on the Nile, state media and a southern official said on Thursday.

The state-owned SUNA news agency said 50 troops drowned in the accident on Wednesday night as they were being transported from the southern Malakal town to their new base along the river.

A southern Sudan official said the toll was as high as 75.

"There were two diesel steamers and they crashed," said Joseph Dut, a member of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

"One was carrying around 109 soldiers and we are hearing that up to 75 of those drowned immediately," he added.

Since the two stories above, authorities in the GoSS have formed two separate committees to investigate the killing on the Juba-Torit Road and the river barge incident.

Meanwhile, the Federal Ministry of Transport is considering issuing a number of legislature to govern river navigation, reports *AlAyaam*.

LRA rebels say Uganda's Museveni abused them

(Reuters – 21st Oct. **Juba**) Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met rebel negotiators of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) for the first time on Saturday to try to revive talks aimed at ending one of Africa's longest and most brutal wars.

Museveni and his aides made no comment about the private unscheduled half-hour meeting at south Sudan's parliament building. But a rebel official said the discussion was one-sided, and that the Ugandan leader had "abused" them.

"He spent all that fuel in the presidential jet and all that taxpayers' money just to tell us we know nothing about Uganda and are foreigners," LRA spokesman Godfrey Ayoo told Reuters.

"We were not given the opportunity to talk back, and after he abused us for five minutes, he just left."

In a speech later to south Sudan's parliament, Museveni hinted at his frustration in dealing with the insurgents, who he has often denounced as fugitives, terrorists and bandits.

He hailed southern Sudanese Vice-President Riek Machar, who is the chief mediator at the stop-start peace talks, as a "very, very persistent person".

"He knows how to deal with the unserious LRA. If it were me..." he told parliament, without finishing his sentence.

Museveni had earlier landed in Juba amid tight security as helicopter gunships circled overhead. He was met by south Sudanese President Salva Kiir and went straight into meetings.

He made no comment to journalists gathered at the airport, and a planned press conference was later cancelled.

The southern Sudan legislative assembly has also called for an explanation from the regional interior minister over the road incident, reports *AllIntibaha*.

** See also related article attached separately*

Darfur

Calls for an investigation over the incidents in Gereida

In a meeting held yesterday, the SLM, African Union and United Nations representatives and the local administration in Gereida underlined the importance of conducting an urgent investigation over the incident that took place in Gereida, says *AlSudani*.

They also called for forming a special committee to oversee the tribal reconciliation in Gereida.

African Union welcomes Eastern Sudan peace deal

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21st Oct. **Addis Ababa**) The AU said on Friday 20 October the chairperson, Alpha Oumar Konare, commends the government of Eritrea for the efforts it deployed to assist the Sudanese parties, reported the Ethiopian ENA.

The chairperson is hopeful that the agreement will not only supplement but also accelerate the implementation of the peace process already initiated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) to achieve lasting peace and stability in the Sudan.

On October 14 the Sudanese government and rebels from the Eastern Front signed a peace accord that was negotiated with Eritrean help and is aimed at ending a 12-year armed conflict.

Sudan's militia killed 40 People in Eastern Chad - Amnesty

(AP – 21st Oct. N'Djamena) "Over the last 10 days, close to a dozen villages in eastern Chad have been attacked, with at least 40 people killed," Amnesty International said in statement released late Friday.

The London-based organization said that, according to information it had obtained, some 3,000 villagers in eastern Chad had fled their homes in the past week either because their village had been attacked or because they expected it to be attacked.

"Fleeing villagers described the attackers as Janjaweed wearing Sudanese army uniforms," the statement said.

"We warned that these attacks were likely to resume once the rainy season ended, and now they have started, as we predicted," Kate Gilmore, the executive deputy secretary general of Amnesty International, said in the statement.

"These attacks could have been avoided if the Chadian government and the international community had listened to earlier warnings and acted in advance to protect civilians in eastern Chad," Gilmore said.

Commentaries:

Pronk and the lost popularity

Musa Yagoub, a prominent columnist writing for *Akhbar Alyaum*, writes his article today on SRSG Pronk.

He points out that the SRSG's reputation is spiralling downwards and that for quite a long time he (the writer) does not follow whatever Mr. Pronk says because "he says something today and contradicts what he said the next day".

He adds that impartiality should have been the mainstay of the SRSG's functions and that his main duties should be to monitor and report events as they are but added that Mr. Pronk has overstretched his mandate and adds to the facts and gives them it some further dimension. This, he adds, has led to his being declared *persona non-grata*.

The writer goes on to say that in his recent article over his blog, Mr. Pronk has turned himself into a reporter for a news agency instead of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General. He said that the SAF was therefore right to express its ire.

He concludes by saying that Mr. Pronk's popularity is eroding and has been dented by a number of question-marks over his credibility. He calls upon Pronk to review his activities and upon the United Nations that "sent him to carry out a particular mission which has been well received by the people", to do the same.