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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations

Sudan expels UN envoy

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring; Reuters, AP – 22nd Oct.*) The Government of National Unity has announced that the task of Jan Pronk as the representative of the UN secretary-general in Sudan has ended. The government also gave Pronk 72 hours to leave the country. The decision takes effect from midday Sunday 22 October to mid-noon on Wednesday [25 October].

Pronk was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign affairs on Sunday [22 October] and then was informed of the government decision to expel him. The government said it will continue to cooperate with the UN and especially the person who will succeed Pronk in accordance with all international agreements.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Pronk violated article five of the agreement, which stipulates that he should refrain from the activities of the UN mission in Sudan and any activities which can contradict the nature of his work.

Sudan has accused the UN envoy to Sudan of undermining Darfur peace urging the international body to replace him, reports the *SudanTribune.com*.

"It is now evident to us that Mr Pronk has actually engaged in activities incompatible with his status and had needlessly and recklessly endangered and undermined the nascent Darfur peace process," Sudan's Foreign Minister Lam Akoi Ajawin said in a letter to Annan.

Lam Akol pledged that Sudanese government "will cooperate with a replacement."

But, *Reuters* reports, chief U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric, speaking at U.N. headquarters, said Pronk had only been called to New York for discussions and "continues to be the special representative of the secretary-general."

Pronk still serves "with the full support of the secretary-general," Dujarric said. "As far as we are concerned, his status remains unchanged."

The *AP* meanwhile reports that Pronk flew out of Khartoum Monday night and was expected to arrive in New York late Wednesday for meetings with Annan and other senior U.N. officials, U.N. deputy spokesperson Marie Okabe said.

Annan spoke to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Monday morning, and Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Hedi Annabi met Sudan's U.N. ambassador Monday afternoon to discuss the government's letter to the secretary-general requesting Pronk's withdrawal, she said.

Reactions to the expulsion*

Radhia Achouri: Asked by *Akhbar Alyaum* daily to comment on reports that the Sudan government has expelled Mr. Jan Pronk as SRSG to Sudan, UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri acknowledged that the Secretary-General of the United Nations did receive a letter

from the GoNU requesting the withdrawal of Mr. Jan Pronk as his Special Representative in Sudan.

She said that the mission will continue to carry out its mandated task as the functions of the mission are not dependent on the person of the SRSG.

The spokesperson said there has been no contact between the government and the UNMIS on the issue due to the Eid holidays.

United Nations [Akhbar Alyaum, *quoting* SUNA]: The United Nations has expressed understanding to the reasons for Mr. Pronk's expulsion by the Sudan government.

The Sudanese permanent mission to New York has received note from the United Nations that it will appoint a replacement to monitor the implementation of the CPA in order that there may not be a vacuum.

Sudan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, [Amb. AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem]: I delivered to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the message on the reasons for the Sudan government decision to request an end to Mr. Pronk's functions as SRSG in Sudan.

[*In response to a question*] This decision will not affect relations between United Nations and the Sudan and the United Nations is fully aware of the regard it is granted by the Sudan government and its unlimited patience over the activities of Mr. Pronk.

Even the Spokesperson for the United Nations [*probably reference to New York*] has talked of their many discussions with Mr. Pronk over his overstretching of his mandate. Many United Nations officials we talked say that Mr. Pronk's expulsion has in fact come late as he has for a long time been part of the problem and not the solution.

This expulsion is a clear message to all international civil servants in Sudan not to overstretch their mandates and that there is an end to the patience of the Sudan government should they overstretch their mandates.

State minister for foreign affairs [Ali Karti]: Pronk had opened for himself wide avenues for cooperation with the east and the west before the Darfur Peace Agreement. His activities have covered fields not catered for by the agreement and is a clear violation of the agreement.

He has been cautioned before of the statements he keeps on posting and he had each time vowed no return to such issues but soon goes back to such statement.

We have the right to interpret this as an intended mistake based on a clear understanding.

State minister for foreign affairs [AlSammani AlWaseela]: The decision to expel Mr. Pronk emanates from the responsibility to preserve national sovereignty. Pronk has been involving himself in issues out of his mandate as SRSG and his statements have eroded impartiality of the United Nations.

There was clear incitement in Mr. Pronk's statements on the SAF and his statements made on the Darfur Peace Agreement during his recent tour to Darfur are devoid of the truth.

This has reached an extent whereby firm decisions have to be taken in order to avoid a repeat.

We have expelled a person but not the mission [UNMIS].

Seif el-Deen Haroun [*head of the Press Committee for SLM-Minnawi*]: The movement did have its reservations towards the activities and behaviour of Mr. Pronk. These contradicted his functions as SRSG. By his recent statements, he has overstretched all his duties and functions. The government, based on its political and national responsibilities and obligations, had the right therefore to expel him.

Yassir Erman [*Head of SPLM caucus at the National Assembly, Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM and cited in the Akhbar Alyaum report as the Official Spokesperson for the GoSS*]: The decision to expel Mr. Pronk is a wrong decision that will take Sudan more and more to the brink of confrontation with the international community.

More importantly, it will aggravate the situation in Darfur rather than looking for solutions in partnership with the international community. Expelling Jan Pronk will not resolve the issue at hand, (i.e. Darfur).

Mr. Jan Pronk came to Sudan as a result of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The government should have consulted the SPLM before expelling him.

Malik Tirab [*military spokesperson, JEM*]: Pronk's statements came in the framework of his role as an influential person. He criticises in his statements not only to the government and the SAF but also to the international organisation. By this decision [*to expel Mr. Pronk*], the government only confirms that it is building up imaginary battles and sidelining the basic issue that is Darfur.

Pronk was only trying to reflect the deteriorating situation in the Darfur region.

We are prepared to cooperate with any SRSG.

NRF: The decision to expel Mr. Pronk was not taken by the politicians but by the military that does not want to leave behind any independent voice in Sudan.

SLM-AbdulWahid: The Sudan government has chosen to path of an escalation of the confrontation with the international community.

Condoleeza Rice (USA), **Lord Triesman** (UK) and **Amadeu Altafaj Tardio**(EU) criticised the decision to expel Mr. Pronk and have described the step, respectively, as, "Unfortunate and extreme", "Counterproductive" and "will likely further complicate efforts to end the crisis in the strife-torn region of western Sudan"

* For more details of some of the statements, please see separate attachments

GoNU

President of the Republic address the nation on the occasion of the Eid holidays

Akhbar Alyaum daily publishes on its second page, the President el-Bashir's address to the nation on the occasion of the Eid holidays.

Among other things, the president urged the people of Darfur to resolve their differences at the negotiations table in order to defeat the enemies and all those who intend to fragment the

country. He expressed support for the Darfur Peace Agreement saying that it is mainly based on the interest of the people of Darfur in the first place. But, he points out, some countries are striving to block the progress in the talks in Abuja.

The President vowed never to pave the way for any form of foreign intervention to tear the country apart and pointed out that the government has exerted all efforts to convince all the non-signatories to sign the agreement.

Authorities foil an attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition in Berber, River Nile state

Akhbar Alyaum reports that local authorities in Berber, River Nile State, have foiled an attempt by Sudanese and some foreigners to smuggle arms and ammunition into Khartoum.

Sources say that the arms were in vehicles and on its way to Khartoum State on the first day of the Eid festive season.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

South Sudan wants own country communication Code

(*New Vision* of Uganda – 20th Oct. **Kampala**) Southern Sudan is mobilising support to get its own international gateway and communication code.

Barnabas Benjamin Malial, the minister for regional cooperation, said this while meeting Uganda's foreign affairs minister Sam Kutesa in Kampala.

Malial said the telecommunication issue was sovereign and had to be solved soon.

He asked Uganda to support Southern Sudan's application at the International telecommunications Union conference to take place in Turkey between November 4 and 22.

A statement said Kutesa reiterated the need to formalise relations between Uganda and Southern Sudan through a joint permanent commission.

He said this would address the need for bilateral agreements in trade, education, agriculture and environment.

Kutesa said the existing crossborder trade should be formalised to enable countries collect revenue.

15 Sudanese soldiers held for killings in South

(*AP* – 23rd Oct. **Nairobi**) Fifteen soldiers from Sudan's federal army have been arrested for a string of attacks that left at least 38 civilians dead in the south, a South Sudan military official said Monday.

The troops were seized after a firefight with south Sudanese military close to the scene of the Sept. 18 attacks near the regional capital, Juba, South Sudan, Maj. Gen. Wilson Deng said in a telephone interview from Juba. Two other federal soldiers were killed.

The 15 soldiers "are under arrest and under investigation," Deng said, adding the results of a preliminary investigation were expected later Monday.

The soldiers were arrested on the same day as the attack. Deng gave no reason why details have only just emerged of the arrests.

Uganda defends president's south Sudan visit

(*BBC Monitoring*) Kampala and the GoSS yesterday gave a spirited defence against claims that President Yoweri Museveni's weekend visit to the south Sudan capital, Juba, was in violation of the diplomatic code.

Ambassador James Mugume, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs laughed off suggestions by Sudan that Museveni's seven-hour visit on Saturday [21 October] was "a diplomatic breach", although it evidently rubbed Khartoum the wrong way.

After Museveni's visit, which was largely intended to rescue the shaky peace talks between Kampala and the LRA [Lord's Resistance Army], Khartoum issued a stern statement condemning the visit. It accused south Sudan of "acting like they are already a country".

"Sudan is still one country and any head of state coming on the Sudanese soil must first come to Khartoum, meet the president, then meet the first vice-president," Ali al-Sadik, a Sudanese government publicist said on the state radio.

However, Museveni's southern Sudan hosts also said yesterday, that Sudan president, Gen Omar al-Bashir had cleared the visit.

South Sudan Information Minister Samson Kwaje, in an interview with Daily Monitor said, "The First Vice-President [Gen Salva Kiir] duly informed President Umar al-Bashir about the visit and got a blessing. He said the vice-president was delegated to receive Museveni."

BBC Monitoring also reports (quoting the Ugandan daily, Daily Monitor, of 22nd October) that Vincent Otti of the Lord's Resistance Army ordered the LRA on Wednesday 18th October to shoot at UPDF soldiers on sight and not to return to Owiny-ki-bul, one of the assembly points in southern Sudan.

Darfur

Tripartite meeting discusses security situation in Darfur

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring* – 22nd Oct.)The three parties signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement, the government, the movements which signed the agreement and the AU mission today held a meeting to discuss security in Darfur.

The meeting was attended by Senior Presidential Assistant, Mani Arkoi Minnawi, Presidential aide Dr Majzoub al-Khalifah, representatives of the movements and the deputy head of the AU mission in Sudan.

The meeting also discussed the implementation process of the DPA, situation in the camps of the displaced people and the humanitarian work. It also urged movements which have not signed the DPA to sign it.

Chad says repels rebel attack on eastern town

(Reuters – 23rd Oct. N'Djamena) A newly formed rebel group attacked a town in remote eastern Chad near the border with Sudan on Sunday but the government said on Monday its forces had repelled the assault and were back in control.

"The rebels infiltrated the town of Goz Beida in the east of Chad at around 1600 (1500 GMT). They were pushed back by the Chadian national army," Communication Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor told Reuters by telephone.

He had no immediate details on casualties.

The insurgents, calling themselves the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) — the latest in a string of titles apparently meant to group various rebel factions, said the attack was meant as a wake-up call for the government.

"We want to make the government in N'Djamena and our partners realise that the situation can't go on like this," Acheikh Ibn Oumar, a Paris-based rebel spokesman who said he represented the UFDD, told French radio.

"There has to be a solution that restores state order, organises true democratic polls and ends the catastrophic way the state is being run."

An aid worker in Goz Beida, which lies just over 100 km (60 miles) from the border with Darfur and is home to thousands of displaced civilians, said there had been shooting shortly before the rebels arrived in the town.

"They came to our office. They spoke to us and behaved well ... They said they were rebels from the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD)," the aid worker said.

"Before they arrived we heard shooting but nothing after that ... They took control of the town and the main roads out to (the towns of) Abeche and Ade ... They left overnight and the situation is calm this morning."