



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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United Nations

UN Pronk doesn't regret Sudan's Darfur comments

(Reuters via Akhbar Alyaum – 24th Oct. **Amsterdam**) SRSG Jan Pronk told a radio station in Amsterdam Tuesday that he had no regrets about making the remarks that led to his departure from Sudan.

Pronk said he still holds the position of SRSG for Sudan and expressed hopes that he would return to Sudan.

"This was in (a local) newspaper," Pronk told the Dutch state broadcaster NOS. "So I didn't do anything but repeat an open secret ... as a call to the rebels: you have won twice now. You'll lose the third time. So now you must abide by the cease-fire, by the peace accord. Don't attack."

Pronk said the reason for his expulsion was the article he wrote on his personal web log but that the military are trampling all over the Darfur Peace Agreement and are still trying to gain a military victory and are not pleased by his constant attempts over the last months to expose this and "don't want anybody peering over their shoulders".

Answering a question on whether he should not have been a little more diplomatic, Mr. Pronk said that he was "very cautious".

He said that he was, in his duties, adhering to the three principles of not commenting on the talks, impartiality and balance and not to criticise individuals. He said that it was said that he has exhibited a hostile position towards the government of Sudan but added that that was not right but the government wants to push on this view.

The AP goes on to say that Pronk said he was glad for the commotion his confrontation with the Sudanese government caused.

"North Korea, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan - they compete of course with Sudan for (the world's) attention," he said. "It's good that more attention be paid at this crucial moment for Sudan, not for my sake, but to prevent that despite the whole shaky peace accord, a real military confrontation is being sought."

More reactions to the SRSG's expulsion

UNMIS Spokesperson: We are still present and continue to carry out our duties in Sudan. Up till this moment there is nothing more than what has been said by the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General of the United Nations who said that SRSG Pronk still maintains his position until further notice.

[Asked on the future of relations between Sudan and the United Nations] We would not speculate on what the future holds in Sudan, United Nations relations but do hope that it will be fruitful and for Sudan's interest.

NOTE: *The following rejoinder is from the Office of the Spokesperson and refers to statements attributed to her appearing in yesterday's press and posted on the MMR of the same date:*

Please note that the statement attributed to me ***"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"*** is not accurate. What I said to the journalist from Akhbar Al Youm in response to his question on whether the decision affected also UNMIS, was that UNMIS continues to implement its mandated tasks and if the SRSG for whatever reason is away, the work of the Mission continues as is.

African Union*: The African Union has expressed regret over the expulsion of SRSG Jan Pronk. It commended the SRSG for his tireless efforts to serve the people of Sudan and called upon the parties to the conflict to stop the violence.

** Please see full text of the statement by the African Union referred to above in separate attachment.*

Majzoub el-Khalifa [*Presidential Advisor and head of the gona delegation to the Abuja talks that led to the DPA*]: Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa, in an interview, says the country was responsible for Mr. Pronk's presence here and has provided facilities to enable him carry out his duties. He says that it is also the Sudan's responsibility as a member state of the United Nations to safeguard the United Nations from any harm to its reputation perpetrated by any of its officials operating in Sudan.

He added that SRSG Pronk, instead of serving a member state by helping eliminate the obstacles before it, has harmed the United Nations and it is on this basis that the decision to expel him was taken. He describes the expulsion as a positive signal from Sudan to the United Nations that Sudan is safeguarding the United Nations' role and will not allow anybody to stand between the United Nations and a member state.

El-Khalifa adds that SRSG Pronk has on some occasions even stood obstacle to the activities of some regional organizations such as the African Union through his negative statements to the press.

He said the SRSG was even expelled by the non-signatory groups in some areas they control who said they do have their differences with the government but would not allow anybody to infringe on national sovereignty and "cross the red lines".

He added that SRSG Pronk himself who compelled the government, after much patience, to expel him.

On statements by the other parties to the Government of National Unity that the expulsion was a unilateral decision over which they were not consulted, Mr. Khalifa said that in state institutions there is nothing like NCP or the SPLM.

"We will never, I repeat, never, allow such statements by parties to the Government of National Unity. These are wrong, lowly, illogical and unpatriotic claims, be it on this issue or any other. Everybody must understand that everyone must respect the decisions issued by the state and anybody who would show disrespect to the decisions of the state only exhibits political immaturity.

Amb. Ali el-Sadiq [*Spokesperson, MoFA*]: When first appointed, SRSG Pronk's mission was to monitor the implementation of the CPA but he has overstretched his mandate and has been summoned to the foreign ministry many times previous for addressing issues beyond his mandate such as compensations for those affected by the Meroe dam, his describing the CPA

as in a coma and bringing the conflict between the NCP and the SPLM over the oil revenues before the Security Council.

Sudan expected from the US and the UK nothing less than the criticism they voiced over the expulsion.

The CPA will continue with or without SRSB Pronk.

GoSS: (*Akhbar Alyaum*) GoSS Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar has strongly criticized the decision by the Government of National Unity to expel SRSB Jan Pronk.

He said that the GoSS was not consulted on the issue although Mr. Pronk's appointment came as a result of consultations between the parties in northern and southern Sudan and his duties cover more than Darfur.

He added that the situation in Darfur is bound to worsen as a result.

** Please see below related commentaries on SRSB Pronk's expulsion*

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Sudan's president is willing to accept more AU forces

(*The Guardian* – 25th Oct. **London**) Sudan is willing to accept a large increase in the number of foreign peacekeepers in Darfur with a stronger mandate to protect civilians, as long as they remain under African Union control, President Omar al-Bashir has told the Guardian.

The force could have logistical help from European and Arab countries, he added, warning that any UN attempt to impose foreign troops could lead to "such troops becoming a target of attacks and part of the conflict, not the solution".

In his first interview since the diplomatic missions, Mr al-Bashir refused to give ground. Denying reports that the Arab League had suggested he accept troops from Arab or Muslim countries outside Africa, he insisted any non-African help for the AU be confined to equipment and logistics.

Asked if the AU could double its troop strength to 20,000, the president said: "We have no objection to the AU increasing its troops, strengthening its mandate, or receiving logistical support from the EU, the UN, or the Arab League for that matter, but this must of course be done in consultation with the government of national unity."

Mr al-Bashir said he "recognized" that refugees had little trust in his government. This was why the peace deal stipulated that security must be overseen by outside observers and provided jointly with the rebel movements, he said. There would be "integrated police units" to protect refugees in their camps and on their return home.

But he accused rebels who failed to sign the deal of stopping refugees from returning to rebuild their villages. He offered no motive for this alleged obstruction. Other Sudanese officials claim it is for propaganda purposes, to maintain a humanitarian crisis and keep the focus on Darfur.

"There are many areas in Darfur which are safe for the return and resettlement of the internally displaced people. Although this issue has become politicised and as a result there are elements

inside and outside the camps resisting any such effort, the government of southern Darfur has already carried out many resettlement programmes successfully," he said.

Sudan accepted a 10,000-strong UN force to monitor a peace deal with rebels in south Sudan last year. Western governments which sponsored the latest UN resolution want this extended to Darfur. But Mr al-Bashir insisted the two issues were separate, since the south Sudan deal allowed for a referendum on secession, something Darfurians had never asked for.

Western governments agree that all rebel groups must sign the peace deal. Mr al-Bashir urged Britain and the US to stop "applying pressure [on Khartoum] the way it is being done now - to the wrong party at the wrong time".

He refused to say what concessions he might offer to persuade rebels to sign, but warned there was a danger that if too much was offered, the group led by Minni Minnawi (which signed the deal) could walk out: "We wouldn't want those who signed to exchange seats with those who did not." Mr Minnawi was made a special assistant to President al-Bashir in August, making him nominally the fourth most powerful person in Sudan. Some rebel leaders have said there is no incentive to make peace because Mr Minnawi has got the top job. He will also nominate his friends to senior posts, they claimed.

The former rebel leader denied this. Mr Minnawi told the Guardian: "This is not my position. It's the position for the people of Darfur." No other jobs had yet been allocated, he added.

Mr Minnawi said he would offer new concessions to those who had not signed: "I didn't think we would achieve peace immediately after I signed. I wanted to create the basis for the others," he said.

US, NATO not to send troops to Sudan - Natsios

(*Xinhua* – 24th Oct. **Cairo**) In statements to Egypt's official MENA news agency, Natsios said that the United States would not change its stance on UN resolution 1706 on the deployment of international peacekeeping forces in Darfur under the UN umbrella, nor would it dispatch any troops to Sudan, U.S. envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios said on Tuesday.

The US goal in Darfur was to improve the humanitarian situation through putting an end to the conflict there and repatriation of refugees, he said.

The NATO, he adds, would only keep extending logistical assistance as is the case with the current African troops now being deployed in the region.

US Rice to keep pressuring Sudan to accept UN forces

(*AP* – 24th Oct. **Washington**) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice intends to keep pressuring the Sudanese government to allow U.N. peacekeepers to enter war-torn Darfur to try to ease the violence and humanitarian crisis in the area, the State Department said Tuesday.

She is looking for ways to overcome resistance by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. "We believe that is a prerequisite step in order to improve the situation," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

U.S. envoy Andrew Natsios has returned from an inspection trip to Sudan and from talks with Arab leaders in Cairo, and Rice is looking to him for "new approaches, new initiatives, new ideas," McCormack said.

Rice also intends to confer by telephone with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, whose top envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, was ordered to leave the country after accusing the army of violating U.N. resolutions on the war in Darfur, the spokesman said.

China also is "very interested" in getting the U.N. force into Darfur, where it would take over from and expand an African Union force; Arab League nations and Sudan's neighbours have "a vested strategic interest in the situation in Sudan improving," McCormack said.

GoNU

Sudan's Bashir criticizes foreign media and aid groups

(AP – 24th Oct. **Khrt.**) President Omar al-Bashir lashed out Tuesday at foreign media and relief groups active in Darfur implying that aid organizations serving the some 2.5 million people forced to flee their homes could face expulsion.

The Sudanese leader's warning follows the departure Monday by the United Nations chief envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, after the government gave him three days to leave the country.

Sudan's government was working to "rid (refugee) camps of those exploiting the suffering of the people, those suspicious organizations who are part of a series of conspiracies," the official news agency quoted al-Bashir as saying during his speech at the start of Muslims' Eid al-Fitr vacation.

"We have promised before God not to let Darfurians' suffering be a pretext for foreign intervention or a subject for hostile media," al-Bashir said according to SUNA.

Pronk's expulsion came after he wrote in his personal Web log that government troops had suffered two major defeats in Darfur and said Khartoum was mobilizing militias in violation of Security Council orders.

The president also urged all rebel groups in Darfur to join the peace accord the government signed in May with a single faction.

Sudan calls on Darfur people for further dialogue

(Xinhua – 24th Oct. **Khrt.**) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Tuesday called on people in the western Sudanese region of Darfur for further dialogue, saying that invisible hands were tampering and impeding peace process in the region.

Addressing the Sudanese nation on occasion of Eid al-Fitr, the Sudanese president noted that the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), signed between the government and a main rebel group in May, "came to be the base for process of peace building which is to get Darfur back to its past era."

He added that he would not leave the sufferings of Darfur people be a pretext for foreign intervention and a subject for hostile media.

Al-Bashir reiterated that all efforts would be exerted to convince all parties to join DPA and to urge the international community and donors to meet the commitments they made on Darfur.

He said that Sudanese government was working for providing basic services to enable displaced people and refugees to return to their villages.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese president said the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, which the government signed with the rebel Eastern Front early this month, "came in holy month of Ramadan to be a complementary to peace process countrywide".

He called upon people in eastern Sudan to come together to protect the contents of the agreement.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Uganda requests China to finance South Sudan railways project

(*Daily Monitor* – 24th Oct. **Kampala**) Uganda has invited China to finance the construction of a railways project to link southern Sudan, after failure to assure necessary fund for its realization, a Ugandan minister said.

The Ugandan Minister of Works, John Nasasira, has already met his Sudanese counterpart to agree on a joint proposal to be presented to the Chinese government for financing of the Packwach-Arua, Orabayi-Yei-Juba-Wau railway line.

"As government, we are confident this project will take off immediately the Chinese government accepts to help us. Once the project is complete the trade barriers between Uganda and Sudan will be removed to help people do business," Nasasira said.

Nasasira said the proposed railway link would connect the existing network between the two states and would provide a solution to cargo that is expected to move through the trans-Africa link between Cairo, Khartoum and Kampala.

A joint railway project, however, was agreed upon in a recent meeting held in Khartoum after the two countries failed to meet the undisclosed cost to handle the project. The proposal would be immediately presented to the Chinese government for technical and financial support to help the project kick-off.

Nasasira told Ugandan Daily Monitor that further consultations are going to be made with the government of southern Sudan to prepare another joint proposal for the development of road networks that connect the two states.

The Chinese proposal comes barely six months, after the Chinese Prime Minister, Wen Jiabao's visit to Uganda to discuss areas of economic integration and investment.

The Uganda-Southern Sudan railway project is an immediate follow-up to another proposed line linking Uganda with Dar-e-Salaam Port in Tanzania.

Darfur

SLM-Minnawi accuses Janjaweed of attack on Muhajiriya

El-Tayeb Khamis, the Information Advisor for the deputy head of the SLM-MM, says Janjaweed militia attacked early last Monday the town of Muhajiriya in South Darfur, reports *AlSudani*.

He says the Janjaweed who numbered about 600 came on the backs of horses and donkeys and carried machinguns and small weapons.

He adds that 12 civilians were killed, the SLA lost 3 and 8 people were injured in the attack on mujairiya which he described as the SLM stronghold.

Chad says rebels attack second eastern town

(*Reuters* – 24th Oct. **N'Djamena**) A newly formed rebel group has attacked a second town in eastern Chad a day after briefly seizing a settlement near the border with Sudan, the central African country's government said on Tuesday.

Armed men attacked Am Timan on Monday afternoon, 24 hours after taking the town of Goz Beida and then being repelled by government forces, Communication Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said.

"The security forces are following the movements of these adventurers, whose objective is simply to show their presence on the ground and take advantage of the fact that the towns they have besieged do not have any significant military presence," he said.

The insurgents, calling themselves the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) — the latest in a string of titles grouping various rebel factions — have said they want polls to end the rule of President Idriss Deby.

The government called on the population of Africa's fifth-largest country to remain calm.

"These adventurers stand no chance against the determination of the Chadian armed forces, who are ready to give them the same welcome they received in April," Doumgor said.

Missile fired at French plane in Chad - Paris

(*Reuters* – 24th Oct. **Paris**) A ground-to-air missile was fired at a French military aircraft on a reconnaissance mission in eastern Chad, but missed its target, the French armed forces said on Tuesday.

"Yesterday morning an Atlantique 2 patrol plane on an observation mission in eastern Chad detected a missile being fired. The plane was not hit," armed forces spokesman Christophe Prazuck said, adding that it was not known who fired the missile.

Rebels have attacked two towns in eastern Chad in recent days and appeared to be moving across the mostly desert country towards the capital N'Djamena, recalling a lightning assault on the city in April in which hundreds were killed.

The attacks recalled a lightning assault on N'Djamena in April, launched from the east by rebels who raced across the desert in pick-up trucks from the Sudan border. Several hundred people were killed in the capital before the army took control.

France, whose air force fired a warning shot on the rebel column as it advanced on N'Djamena in April, said it was "very attached to the stability of Chad" and following events closely.