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United Nations

Annan pleads with Sudan to allow Pronk collect personal belongings

The *Sudan Vision* carries a story attributed to the *Sudan News Agency* (SUNA) saying that the Sudan government has received a request from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to permit SRSJ Jan Pronk return to Khartoum for a few days in order to collect his personal belonging before his final departure.

Foreign ministry spokesman, Ambassador Ali AlSadiq said that the request is currently under study and pointed out that the way it has been communicated to Khartoum should be viewed as an explicit admission (on the part of the United Nations) that the decision to expel SRSJ Pronk was sound and should be respected.

On the same story, *AlSahafa* daily reports that the Sudan government has indeed accepted the Secretary-General's request but does not elaborate.

Asked to comment on speculations that SRSJ Pronk may remain resident in Juba until his contract expires in December, the foreign ministry spokesman said that that was unacceptable as Juba is part of Sudan.

The local press (*notably Akhbar Alyaum and others*), during the weekend, followed up on the story of the Sudan government's expulsion of SRSJ Jan Pronk. Among issues highlighted is the confirmation by Secretary-General Annan that Jan Pronk will continue to serve as his Special Representative in the Sudan until the year's end when his contract expires and is expected back in Khartoum in November to formally hand over to the mission's OIC.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri was quoted by *Akhbar Alyaum* (Frodau 27th Oct.) as saying that PDSRSJ Taye Zerihoun will temporarily assume the position of head of the mission. She added that Mr. Zerihoun is not a new figure in the mission and was appointed Pronk's deputy alongside DRSJ da Silva when Pronk was handed the job of SRSJ. [The paper goes on to say that Ms. Achouri commended the *Akhbar Alyaum* daily for printing throughout the Eid festive season and described the paper as their only window to the developments in Sudan during that time].

Also widely covered in the weekend press was the statement by Sudan's U.N. ambassador last Thursday branding as "history" SRSJ Pronk and calling for a new SRSJ for Sudan.

United Nations Spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric says, however, that it has been made clear that only Secretary-General Annan can decide on the tenure of his Special Representatives.

Of this show of confidence on the part of the United Nations for the SRSJ, *Reuters* reports that the Sudanese Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdalmahmood Mohamad, called the arrangement "a face-saving formula" for the United Nations.

"Maybe he enjoys the confidence of the secretary-general, not the government of Sudan," Mohamad said. "His mandate as the secretary-general's special envoy, it is over. We are not backtracking for an inch."

Nafei Ali Nafei, Presidential Advisor and senior National Congress Party member, also pointed out that government will not draw back on its decision to expel Mr. Pronk.

AlHayat reports that the Presidential Advisor said that Pronk will be allowed into Sudan in November as per the request of the Secretary-General but he will not carry the status of SRSG because the decision to terminate his duties as such were taken more than a week ago. The United Nations, he adds, may decide to maintain or terminate Mr. Pronk's duties but the issue is over as far as the government in Sudan is concerned.

Pronk defends himself before the Security Council

(*Reuters* - 27th Oct. UN) SRSG Pronk told reporters he thought he was expelled not for his blog but for his "incessant criticism" of the authorities, who hoped to silence him. Diplomats said Sudan was surely aware that he was leaving at the end of the year anyway.

Pronk told the closed-door Security Council meeting the government was still seeking a military solution to the Darfur conflict and "continues to violate the Darfur peace agreement."

"Security Council resolutions forbidding offensive air operations are being neglected. Instead of being disarmed, militia and Janjaweed are being incorporated into the paramilitary Popular Defence Forces," he said, according to a text of his remarks distributed to reporters.

India's air force contingent leaves to Sudan on UN peace mission

(*SudaniTribune.com* - 27th Oct. New Delhi) Air Vice Marshal DC Kumaria VM, VSM, the Assistant Chief of Air Staff Ops (Space) flagged off the Indian Aviation Contingent (Rotation-I) to Kadugli (Sudan), today at Air Force Station Palam, New Delhi.

Addressing the Sudan bound Air Warriors, Air Vice Marshal Kumaria said, "You are the ambassadors of peace and the Nation has high expectations from you in terms of discipline, integrity and professional standards. Your predecessors have set high standards and you should be setting higher standards". Air Vice Marshal Kumaria also congratulated every member of the contingent for being selected for the mission.

On 28 October 2006, a team of 196 Air Warriors would be proceeding to Kadugli, Sudan as first rotation for the IAC. Gp Capt Anil Tiwari VM, leads the team. Wg Cdr DK Taneja will command the Squadron of six MI-17 helicopters.

UN considers peace mission in Chad near Darfur

(*Reuters* - 28th Oct. UN) The United Nations is considering a monitoring mission or peacekeeping force in Chad where the spillover from violence in Sudan's Darfur region has resulted in more than 200,000 refugees.

The *Reuters* story has also been picked up by the local press such as *AlSahafa* daily.

Jean-Marie Guehenno, the head of U.N. peacekeeping, told the U.N. Security Council on Friday he was sending a mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, which is also affected by the Darfur conflict, to investigate options.

A monitoring operation would include a standby rapid reaction force, supplied by one country or the United Nations, to check for trouble, especially at border points. It would observe the "security situation in the region and cross-border activities of armed groups" and alert local authorities, Guehenno said in his briefing notes, obtained by Reuters.

Although the mission would not "have a major and direct impact on protection of civilians," its presence could bring about a limited improvement in the situation through deterrence, active monitoring and reporting, Guehenno said.

But Guehenno said a peacekeeping mission would come "with considerable challenges and risks," including finding troops, and getting the Chad government to approve.

Part of the problem is the lack of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, which the Khartoum government has turned down, to bolster an under-equipped African Union operation in Sudan's vast western region.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Sudan, AU, UN hold consultations on Darfur peacekeeping force

(*Xinhua* – 28th Oct. **Khrt.**) The Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday that the Sudanese government, the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) are holding consultations on the peacekeeping issue in Sudan's restive western region of Darfur.

Spokesman for the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Ali al-Sadig told reporters on Saturday that the consultations aimed at crystallizing a proposal, known as "the third road," which suggested deployment of a reinforced AU force after it expires on Dec. 31.

"The third road means there is a possibility of reaching a formula between the position taken by Sudan and that taken by some country and their insistence that the UN Resolution 1706 be implemented," al-Sadig said while commenting on the proposal.

He said that assisting the current AU forces was the most suitable solution for the Darfur problem and that all consultations currently focus on provision of assistance to the African Union forces in Darfur.

GoNU

Sudan urges donor countries to meet pledges

(*SudanTribune.com* – 28th Oct. **Juba**) Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol has asked donor countries to live up to their commitments and support Sudan's peace process.

The Foreign Minister said the government was at present working towards rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes in southern Sudan.

Lam Akol said Sudan is striving to attract foreign investment so that it can help in the reconstruction and development programmes in southern Sudan.

In a press statement at Juba airport yesterday before returning to Khartoum, Akol urged donor countries to fulfil their pledges made at the Oslo Donors' Conference on Sudan.

He stressed that Sudan's foreign policy was based on the development of good neighbourly relations and international ties, the commitment to international pacts, the war on terrorism and the respect of human rights.

Parliament to convene tomorrow with the elections, parties and human rights commission bills at the top of the agenda

The National Congress convenes tomorrow its third session which will last till the first week of January. The session will commence with an address by president el- Basher, *AlSudani* reports.

The new parliamentary session focuses on the issue of legislature with the elections, parties and human rights bills topping the agenda.

The National Democratic Alliance Caucus member, Mahmoud Hassanein stressed that the coming session should consider also issues related to the national security and press. The NDA member, Mohamed Seed Ahmed considered the issue of the politically dismissed employees as one of the most important issues to be focus on during the session.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Second governors' Forum convenes in Juba

The second Governor's Forum for Southern Sudan organized and supported by the UNDP in Juba on Thursday drew the ten governors of the southern states and their state ministers, reports the *Khartoum Monitor*..

The main objective of the forum aimed at creating a Platform for dialogue between the Government of Southern Sudan and states with a view to enhancing policy coordination, harmonization of development strategies and fostering complementary synergies along with sharing experience between different states. The papers, notably *Khartoum Monitor*, *AlAyaam* and others, carry excerpts from a statement yesterday in Juba by Vice-President Salva Kiir before the opening of the Second Governors' Forum for the GoSS. The Vice-President who expects to travel to London later today said that the security situation at community levels in some southern states is increasingly fragile as ethnic tensions and conflict are systematically undermining the CPA. He warned those governors who deliberately undermine the autonomy and independence of the government organs as defined in the Interim Constitution of the GoSS. He reiterated that the appointment and dismissal of members of other political parties in the state assembly and cabinet can not be done by the GoSS President alone but must be done with the consent of the concerned parties.

Kiir further cited governance and transparency as another real challenge where there are no clear policy statements by the state government to guide political commitment to the population.

On relations between the GoSS and the GoNU, Kiir advised those southern Sudanese who have dubious contacts with the GoNU to refrain and pointed out that such behaviour not only undermines the institutional integrity of the GoSS but also violates what has been achieved in the CPA by not seeing to it that the people of southern Sudan exercise their right to self-determination.

He pointed out that the National Congress Party shall remain an effective partner in government despite the differences. to respect the role of the judiciof the sourced from the *SUNA* that Vice-President Salva Kiir is travelling to the UK later today for a visit that spans a couple of days.

Vice-President Kiir also criticised some GoSS officials as acting as though southern Sudan was a separate state and ordered the suspension of some high-rank officials at the GoSS Ministry of Finance.

Five killed in attack near south Sudan capital

(*Reuters* – 29th Oct. **Juba**) Unknown armed men attacked a south Sudan village killing five people, the latest in a spate of assaults terrorizing villagers and hampering humanitarian aid access to one of the poorest areas on earth

Almost daily attacks have shocked residents around southern Sudan's capital Juba over the past 10 days, including four last week which claimed 38 lives. Thursday's attack was on Gumbo village, which faces Juba on the Nile.

The former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), now the official southern army, arrested 15 members of the northern Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on Oct. 19 suspected of carrying out earlier strikes.

The 15, seen by Reuters, are mostly southern soldiers from SAF with one from the western Darfur region. They had SAF identification numbers and wore green khaki military uniforms.

Despite the arrests, attacks have continued.

The United Nations in Juba says it is not clear who is behind the attacks.

Uganda Government, rebel review truce, agree on new terms

(*Xinhua* - **Juba**) The Ugandan government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have reviewed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement they signed on Aug. 26th and agreed on new terms, a senior Uganda government official said in Kampala on Friday.

Ruth Nankabirwa, chairperson of the government's Peace Support Committee, told to a press briefing that the two teams in Juba, southern Sudan, acknowledged there was need to review it.

Khartoum fools fuelled LRA war, says Museveni

(*The Monitor* – 29th Oct. **Kampala**) “The foolishness of Khartoum in attacking us by supporting the Lords Resistance Army terrorists enabled us to stand with our brothers in southern Sudan,” said Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni at a fundraising dinner organized by the Uganda Red Cross Society at Hotel Africana in Kampala on Friday.

“It is a terrorism campaign that was organized by the government of Sudan who wanted to overthrow us [Movement Government] because Khartoum thought we would side with the blacks in southern Sudan whose rights were being sat on by the Sudan administration,” he said.

He said the “so-called civil war” in the region is a creation of the “useless” Daily Monitor and The New Vision newspapers. “They are really very useless, the type of characters in those two institutions have no contribution to this country,” Museveni said.

He said when the government of Sudan signed a peace pact with the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army/ Movement, 70 percent of the problems in northern Uganda were solved.

“Since 2002, the remaining problem is to collect guns from Kony rebels who are no longer receiving support from Sudan. Whether the ongoing Juba peace talks succeed or not, peace has returned to Uganda,” he said.

He said LRA chief Joseph Kony and his deputy Vincent Otti went to Garamba forest in DR Congo after being defeated by the UPDF.

He told local and international humanitarian organisations to plan an elaborate resettlement plan of internally displaced people “as if peace has returned because the situation will never backslide”.

Darfur

Sudan denies Chadian accusation of supporting rebels

(*Xinhua* – 26th Oct. **Khrt.**) Sudan denied on Thursday an accusation that it had provided support for Chadian rebels, saying that recent conflicts between the Chadian army and the rebels in the border areas took place without any Sudanese involvement."

A turbulence in the region is not in our interest. Our interest is the stability in Darfur and neighboring Chad," a statement issued by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said.

The statement reiterated Sudan's commitment to the promise, which was made by both Sudan and Chad during a meeting in Libyan capital Tripoli last February, of restraining from supporting rebels in the other country.

On Wednesday, Chad accused Sudan of supporting Chadian rebels who have resumed military operations in the east of the country."

These rebels entered Chad from Sudan and they could only have procured this type of military equipment within the sight of and with the knowledge of the Sudanese authorities," Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmat Allami said, adding "Sudan cannot deny it."

Chadian rebels from the recently formed Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) on Monday captured the town of Oum Timan, and earlier on Sunday, briefly seized the town of Goz Beida near the Sudanese border.

SLM field commander says Minnawi's entry in the republic Palace caused an increase in the security unrest on the ground

SLM field commander Mubarak Hamid says that although Minnawi represents the forth highest figure in the GoNU, he is still unable to take a decision, *AlWan* reports.

He said that insecurity has increased on the ground in Darfur since Minnawi entered the Republican Palace.

He cites Minnawi's passive role on the Gereida and Muhajiriya incidents as examples of the SLM leader's inability to act or even order an investigation into the incidents.

JEM reveals of Arab initiative for a political settlement with the NRF

AlHayat daily reports that the Justice and Equality Movement headed by Dr. Khalil Ibrahim and one of the non-signatory factions revealed that the League of Arab countries has proposed an initiative aimed at bringing about a political settlement with the National Redemption Front.

The NRF public information official in Cairo, Mohamed Adam, said that there are three initiatives over the Darfur issue offered by the League of Arab Countries, the Egyptian Government, the African Union and Eritrea.

Unit on combating GNB lists 36 cases of rape in the Darfur between January to July

AlSahafa reports that Dr. Atiat Mustafa who heads the justice ministry's Unit to Comate Violence Against Women and Children said that they have listed 36 cases of rape in the three States of Darfur between January and the end of July this year.

8 perpetrators of these crimes, including members of the regular forces, have so far been tried by the competent courts.

She denied claims reported by the Human Rights Repertoire, Sima Samar that were more than 80 cases of rape in Darfur.

She accused the international organizations of using the situation in Darfur to work for push their own interests and cited as an example the case of an IDP woman in one of the camps who was calling for international forces to come to Darfur although she was more than 75 years old.

She further pointed out that most of the rape cases were fabricated claims.

Commentaries and Editorials:

Pronk's expulsion – the beginning and not the end

Ahmed AbdelWahab argues in his regular column in *AlHayat* daily that SRSG Pronk should have been expelled a long time ago.

Pronk as a person, he adds, has been expelled indeed but then the government's measures that originally brought in Mr. Pronk will create more "Jan Pronks".

He points out that the voluntary organisations responsible for the Darfur crisis are still free to do whatever they wish to do although "all the world knows that the international NGOs are but the advance parties for a US and Israeli invasion".

He points out that Eritrea's Affewerki has threatened to throw the United Nations out of his country but Sudan has 'given the United Nations what it does not give the mothers of its martyrs'. He says that for example, the government has granted the United Nations use of "2/3rd the space at the Khartoum Airport and use of all the roads of Khartoum with its cars that consume fuel subsidized from the Sudanese tax-payer".

The writer goes on saying that SRSG Pronk came in with a particular mandate but then "government's leniency made of him an international hero".

In short, he calls upon the government to show a brave face and make of Pronk's expulsion a signal to US Special Envoy Andrew Natsios and to the ambassadors of the US, the UK and France.

Mr. Pronk's crisis

Opinion piece: In this article appearing on *AlWihda*, the writer highlights the reasons given for Mr. Pronk's expulsion and concludes that although the Secretary-General has confirmed his confidence in Mr. Pronk, it will not be appropriate to retain Mr. Pronk as SRSG for Sudan in spite of government's request for a termination.