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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:➤ **United Nations**

- Secretary-General Annan says UN peacekeepers will only deploy with Sudan consent

➤ **Reactions to UNSCR 1706 continue**

- Sudan warns it will consider any move by UNMIS towards resolution 1706 as hostile
- AUPSC convenes emergency meeting*
- President Bashir on an Anti-UNSCR 1706 campaigns
- Advisor says Sudan did not expel AMIS
- Reactions from the other partners of the GoNU
- Deteriorating security situation in Darfur
- French paper says US intends to invade Egypt

➤ **CPA**

- 18,000 militia combatants integrated into the SAF and the SPLA
- Sadiq el-Mahdi ridicules CPA

➤ **GoNU**

- Cairo invites V-P Kiir to visit

➤ **Southern Sudan**

- South Sudan donates food to Uganda LRA rebels

➤ **Eastern Sudan**

- Talks in Eastern Sudan resumes tomorrow

➤ **Other Developments:**

- Demonstrations tomorrow, says Umma party leader
- Regulations governing residents of furnished apartments

➤ **Commentaries:**

- They will understand the advice tomorrow
- The Impasse

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Secretary-General Annan says UN peacekeepers will only deploy with Sudan consent

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called on Khartoum to revise its position and cooperate with the international community, reports *AlSahafa*.

He reassures that the United Nations will not deploy troops to Darfur without the consent of the Sudan government.

Reactions to UNSCR 1706 continue

Sudan warns it will consider any move by UNMIS towards resolution 1706 as hostile

Covered widely in the local and international news agencies is the story on the meeting yesterday between the Sudan foreign ministry and African Union special representative, Babagan Kingibe.

AlAyaam reports that the Sudan foreign ministry informed the UNMIS yesterday that it has given the AMIS a one-week ultimatum to decide the fate of its forces operating in Darfur.

The ministry also told UNMIS that the Sudan government will consider any move on the part of the mission towards the implementation of UNSCR 1706 will be considered an act of hostility and has warned UNMIS not to overstep its mandate.

A statement issued by the foreign ministry said that the African Union's Babagana Kingibe promised to convey the message to the African Union and to inform the Sudan government in due course within the week.

AUPSC convenes emergency meeting*

The African Union Peace & Security Council convened an emergency meeting in Addis Ababa yesterday to discuss the government requests that it decide on whether or not its forces will remain in Darfur, *AlRai AlAam* reports.

The paper says the council has expressed readiness to consider an extension of its mandate beyond the 30th September date should the Sudan government and the United Nations reach an agreement over a transition of AMIS to a United Nations operation.

The African Union has resolved to hold a meeting at the ministerial level in New York on the fringes of the forthcoming 18th September meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

** Please refer to the full text of the African Union Peace & Security Council statement attached separately*

President Bashir on an Anti-UNSCR 1706 campaigns

The government is exerting efforts to muster local support for the decision against a deployment of United Nations peacekeepers to Darfur. President Bashir briefed the SAF leadership yesterday of the implications of the resolution.

The story enjoys coverage in all major newspapers and a detailed coverage by the *Akhbar Alyaum*.

The paper reports that the President of the Republic told the SAF that the resolution comes at a time when Sudan has launched practical steps to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and, alongside regional organisations, is exerting efforts to lobby support for the AMIS.

He reiterated accusations of a United Nations attempt to re-colonise the country and pointed out that the government is capable of preserving peace and security in all parts of Darfur and of the country at large.

The SAF has pledged support for the decision to reject a United Nations Darfur force and readiness to take up any task it may be asked to do to preserve the country's security, stability and sovereignty.

The President also renewed his position against a United Nations force while briefing yesterday a conference of representatives of *Sufi* sects at the Friendship Hall yesterday, reports *Alwan*.

He said these forces the United Nations seeks to deploy are invading forces and should be resisted.

Vice-President Taha who was also addressing a religious sects yesterday vowed that no "aggressor or invading force" will set foot on Sudanese soil unless on the path of the right.

He points out that the state has vowed to fight such invaders.

Alwan further reveals that the government has started important preparations against resolution 1706 that include the formation of a 5-member committee headed by Vice-President Taha and that includes Ibrahim Ahmed Omar (deputy head of the NCP), Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir (Speaker of the National Assembly), Ali Karti (state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Mohamed Atta.

The committee met yesterday for the first time to discuss measures necessary to confront UNSCR 1706.

Advisor says Sudan did not expel AMIS

Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail says the Council of Ministers has not formally asked the AMIS to leave should it want to extend its mandate beyond the 30th September date but is only against a transition to a United Nations operation.

Sudan Vision says the presidential advisor said yesterday at a press forum organised by the *SUNA* that the Sudan doubts US intentions and, furthermore, resolution 1706 of the Security Council does not set government approval as a condition for a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur.

He wondered why the Security Council would consider the situation in Sudan as a threat to world peace while Somalia has no government in place.

He said the state is launching diplomatic efforts at the regional and international levels [*President Bashir will soon be travelling to Tripoli, presidential advisor Dr. Nafei is on his way to China and*

foreign minister Lam Akol to Washington] to explain the reasons behind Sudan's rejection to a transition.

Responding to the media coverage of the decision by the Council of Ministers to ask the AMIS to leave and on the fact that the SPLM was reserved over the issue, Dr. Ismail said the coverage was “chaotic” [*reported in AlSahafa*].

He pointed out that the central government does not interfere in the security arrangements of southern Sudan and that Vice-President Salva Kiir is sometimes away on missions to the south and such a decision over such an urgent issue can not be delayed until his return.

Police briefed on UNSCR 1706

Akhbar Alyaum also reports that the Information Office of the Sudan Police has revealed that the Minister of the Interior briefed the regular meeting of the police leadership on a number of issues but UNSCR 1706 was the main focus.

The meeting also saw the police confirm their support for the decision to reject a deployment of a UN force.

Reactions from the other partners of the GoNU

Reported in *reuters*: Former rebels who are now part of government with the dominant National Congress Party said they did not agree with the decision to ask the AU to leave.

"It is endangering the Darfur peace agreement and endangering Sudan's relations with the African and the international community," said *Yasser Arman, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)*.

He said there had been no consultation on the decision with the partners in government such as the SPLM and the former Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), which recently joined government after the May deal.

Local papers quoted *SLM leader Minni Arcua Minnawi* as calling the decision "a violation of the Darfur peace deal." The African Union said they still had no official notification of the decision taken Sunday night.

The EU's executive Commission called on Sudan on Monday to recognize the broad international consensus for the AU to hand over to a stronger U.N. mission, citing the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Deteriorating security situation in Darfur

Analysts, rebels and African Union officials say the Sudanese government has dramatically intensified the war in Darfur in a bid to finish off a tenacious, three-year-old rebellion before a U.N. peacekeeping force can deploy there, reports the *Washington Post*.

Aid groups warn that conditions could worsen should the African Union leave. Rebel leaders meanwhile report a new phase of atrocities and that they are giving up ground rather than face thousands of fresh, heavily armed government troops who have replaced irregular militias.

Analysts say the growing offensive has left the anti-government forces in a precarious position at a time when flows of fuel and materiel from neighboring Chad have slowed as well.

“They might actually be defeated militarily this time,” Ted Dagne, an Africa analyst for the Congressional Research Service, said from Washington. “The balance of power is going to shift in favor of the government. ... What they want is to change the reality on the ground to make irrelevant the deployment of the international force.”

Government forces there have been bolstered by thousands of new troops in recent months, said Lt. Col. Ferdinand Eze, military adviser to the African Union head of mission in Sudan. The government forces also have access to helicopter gunships and a growing number of armed trucks and heavy weapons. Russian-made Antonov planes, meanwhile, are being used for regular bombing raids.

Eze said the government offensive, which began Aug. 29, included the most extensive and coordinated fighting in Darfur in at least the past year. At the same time, the rebels have heavy weapons and an ability to move about the sparse region quickly.

“They are in a position to fight,” Eze said, “but what one cannot say is for how long.”

French paper says US intends to invade Egypt

A political and military analyst writing in a major French daily newspaper warns that the main motives behind the US push for a United Nations force in Darfur is “to invade Egypt in the year 2015 in order to control the Nile waters and cause tensions within the religious groups as it did in Iraq”, *AlHayat* reports.

He warned that a US invasion of Egypt will pave the way for an invasion of the Arab World as a whole.

- ❖ *The governor of el-gedharef State has announced the state is opening training camps for Jihadists against the possible AMIS-UN transition. The camp is said to have a capacity of 10,000. This has been reported in AlHayat.*
- ❖ *Cartoonist have taken up the general mood of things and AlSahafa produces a page 14 cartoon depicting a not so happy-looking UN peacekeeper with one hand hovering over a pistol dangling from a holster at his side and offering with the other hand a bag of dollars to an elephant [incidentally, the elephant head is the symbol of Khartoum State]. The caption below reads, “Attempts at Convincing Khartoum”.*

CPA

18,000 militia combatants integrated into the SAF and the SPLA

12,000 militia combatants have been integrated into the SPLA and 6,000 of the same into the Sudanese Armed Forces, Mjr. Gen. Elias Waya who heads the technical committee of the Joint Defence Council announced [*reported in AlAyaam*].

He said that there are 19,000 combatants of different militias still to be integrated into the SPLA and SAF in addition to some unidentified militia combatants.

A meeting will be held next Thursday in Juba to discuss the integration of other militias into the two forces.

Sadiq el-Mahdi ridicules CPA

Opposition parties in their meeting yesterday at Umma party headquarters proclaimed that effective tools should be devised to meet the new challenge, especially the oppressive system of the Salvation regime, *The Citizen* reports.

Criticizing the CPA signed with the SPLM, el-Mahdi described it as a foreign panorama that was nationally negotiated and assigned. He however added that the opposition parties support the agreement, which has benefited the people of South Sudan.

Concerning Darfur Peace Agreement, he expressed the view that it would never halt war in Darfur, but rather it has complicated the situations there.

GoNU

Cairo invites V-P Kiir to visit

Rai AlShaab reports that the Egyptian Government has officially invited First Vice- President Salva Kiir to visit Cairo. The visit is expected to take place within the coming few days, an informed source reports.

The visit is part of Egyptian efforts to support national and regional unity and peace in Sudan.

Southern Sudan

South Sudan donates food to Uganda LRA rebels

(*Daily Monitor* – 4th Sep. **Kampala**) Sudan First Vice President and, President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, has sent seven truckloads of food to Ugandan rebel Lord Resistance Army leader, days Joseph Kony sent out a request for help.

The consignment was dispatched as Kony cleared the first group of trusted troops and commanders at his base in Garamba National Park to trek to the designated assembly points in Southern Sudan. These fighters are supposed to assemble in DR Congo at Ri-Kwangba in Western Equatoria State on the western side of River Nile.

Kony's approval comes with only about two weeks left to the expiry of the assembly deadline. "Kony has already sent his first group. We expect it to arrive at Ri-Kwangba on Sunday (yesterday) or Monday (today)," said Lt-Gen Daniel Awet, the GOSS security minister.

However, Gulu District Chairman Nobert Mao told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that Kony was busy consulting. "I have been in touch with Kony. He says he is consulting with his team on how to move to South Sudan," Mao said in an interview yesterday.

According to the landmark truce signed between the LRA and government, which came into effect last week, the rebels have less than three weeks to assemble at Owiny-ki-Bul in Eastern Equatoria State on the eastern side of the River Nile and in the DRC at Ri-Kwangba in Western Equatoria State on the western side of River Nile.

"He has to abide with the agreement signed. If he doesn't, then he will be violating the cessation of hostilities agreement," Mao said moments before he flew out to Juba.

He said Kony had agreed with all the terms of truce but only protested against the safe routes announced by the army last week. "The only thing Kony has protested is on the safe routes announced by the army last week. Everything is fine," Mao said. However, there is growing concern whether the elusive LRA leader would show up in Sudan.

Kony, his deputy Vincent Otti and top commanders; Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen are on the International Criminal Court's (ICC) list of wanted men. They have been indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Kony and Otti have in the past expressed fear about their safety in South Sudan. They are afraid the ICC could engineer their arrest.

But President Yoweri Museveni has pledged a blanket amnesty for them if the rebels agreed to end one of Africa's longest insurgencies. The chief mediator who is also the Southern Sudan Vice-President, Riek Machar, at the weekend visited Owiny-Ki-bul in the Equatorial Province, for an on-spot assessment. Kony and his fighters have rejected the assembly point saying it's heavily mined.

"Apart from on-spot assessment of the area, Machar is launching the cessation of hostilities officially in Owiny-Ki-bul. It is also his mission to give his assurance to the LRA that the area is safe," a top SPLM official monitoring the talks, said.

Eastern Sudan

Talks in Eastern Sudan resumes tomorrow

(*AlAyaam* 5th Sep. Khrt.) Talks between the Sudan government and the Eastern Front resume today, sources report.

The sources expect this to be the final round.

Akhbar Alyaum on the other hand says that a spokesperson for the Eastern Front speaking from Asmara says the Eastern Front is ready to resolve all outstanding issues with the government and backs the government decision to reject a United Nations troop deployment to Darfur.

Other Developments:

Demonstrations tomorrow, says Umma party leader

(*AlAyaam* 5th Sep. Khrt.) Opposition parties and the civil society organizations revealed yesterday that preparations are underway for a demonstration tomorrow against the recent rise in price of some commodities including combustibles.

Umma party leader el-Sadig el-Mahdi has asserted the commitments to conduct a peaceful demonstration.

He also calls for police protection for the demonstration tomorrow.

Regulations governing residents of furnished apartments

AlHayat reports that the “Department of Owners of Furnished Apartments” has issued regulations governing the rent of such apartments.

The regulations are said to have been thus drafted to as precautionary measures against the background of the investment boom and to curb organised crime and stipulates that the owner of the flat would be regarded as a acquaintance to the foreign tenant should the said tenant indulge in any criminal act and would face the same legal consequences.

The regulation stipulates:

1. The owner of the furnished apartment will urgently present to the said department a duly filled form allowing the lease of apartment to the foreign tenant for a particular period of time;
2. A man and woman can only share an apartment after legal proof of their relationship such as a marriage certificate, valid passport, etc. or a permit from the department headquarters located in Erkowit;
3. No females will be allowed to live alone in an apartment without prior permit from the department;
4. The department should immediately be informed in suspicions of unbecoming behaviour [*telephone numbers are provided*];
5. Apartments should not be used for the following purposes:
 - a. Witchcraft;
 - b. “Red-nights”;
 - c. Use of computers and printers for internet communications;
 - d. For TV or cinema production without prior permission.

Commentaries:

They will understand the advice tomorrow

Osman Mirghani of *AlSudani* chooses the above as his title for today's column.

He refers to the Council of Minister’s statement on the African Union and praises the government for its choice of words [*using the word “statement” instead of “resolution” to describe the Council’s decision*]

He wonders what step the Security Council would take in response to the government’s decision.

He points out that the Security Council needs to give a helping hand to the people of Sudan at this particular time.

The Impasse

The Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned special envoy Babagana Kingibe to convey its request that the African Union inform government within one week of its final decisions with regards the fate of its forces.

But there are essential issues that might have missed government attention while going on this risky path.

First: Termination of the African Union mission in Darfur might be misinterpreted as termination of the DPA.

Second: The Security Protocol signed in the DPA specifies the military locations and the movement of forces. It describes the SAF as a party to the conflict and points out that it can not move a step without the permission of the African Union.

Third: with regards the DPA, it is impossible for the government to monitor and for the SAF to be responsible for security in Darfur without terminating the DPA.

Fourth: The African Union, as a part of the international community and a member in the Security Council, can do nothing but implement the Security Council resolutions and continue on the path of a transition of its mission in Darfur to the UN.

The above mentioned show how risky is the government decision of terminating the African Union mission in Darfur by the end of this month.