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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

United Nations calls for solutions to the problems of the OAGs*

The United Nations has called upon the armed groups in southern Sudan to decide as soon as possible on whether to join the SAF or the SPLA as stipulated by the CPA.

Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told *AllIntibaha* that it is important that this be expedited and resolved in a final and irreversible manner for stability to reign in the region and that delays in resolving the issue will lead to insecurity. She cited the recent clashes in Fam-el-Ziraf as an example.

She said that there was renewed fighting in the area by the end of last week and that last Saturday the dead and injured from the two sides were carried away following a successful mediation by UNMIS that led to an immediate end to hostilities and the withdrawal of the forces to the assembly points.

The spokesperson also called on the GoSS to consolidate the tenets for tribal reconciliation.

Of Darfur, the spokesperson drew a bleak picture of the situation there saying that banditry and looting targeting humanitarian organisations continue. She described the humanitarian situation in the region as being at its worst with reports coming in of clashes between signatories and non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement in North Darfur.

On UNSCR 1706, the UNMIS spokesperson said that the United Nations welcomes the Sudan government's wishes to continue dialogue with the United Nations on the issue. She said that such dialogue may help clear any misunderstandings on UNSCR 1706 which sets government acceptance as a precondition.

** See also related story under CPA below and titled Joint Military committee calls for solutions to the problems of the OAGs*

Jan Egeland calls for trial of LRA leaders

United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, Jan Egeland, was on a visit to northern Uganda last Saturday, *AlSahafa* reports.

Addressing residents of a refugee camp 40 kilometres north of the northern Ugandan town of Gulu, that leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army must face trial.

He added however that the most important thing at the moment is bringing an end to the war.

Egeland is expected in Juba later today where talks are taking place between the LRA and the Uganda government.

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate*

Security Council to discuss Darfur today

The Security Council holds today a special session on Darfur. The session comes against the background of reports of a deterioration of the situation in the Darfur region, reports *AlHayat*.

Meanwhile in Khartoum, yesterday's meeting of Sudan's Council of Ministers presided over by Vice-President Taha called upon the Security Council to study during its special session today the comprehensive plan for Darfur presented by the Sudan government.

President Bashir sends response to US counterpart

Foreign minister Lam Akol delivers today to his US counterpart a message from President Bashir in response to an earlier message from the US president.

AlRai AlAam sources reveal that the Sudanese president reiterated in the message Sudan's rejection to the deployment of a United Nations force for Darfur but also confirmed that Sudan had no intentions for a confrontation with the international community but will seek common grounds on the issues. The message also covers bilateral relations between Khartoum and Washington, US sanctions on Sudan and upgrading of diplomatic representation.

Minister Akol will then travel to Havana, Cuba, for the meeting of non-aligned states and return to New York to participate at the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

His visit to Washington comes in the wake of a demonstration organised before the White House by African Action where about 300 people were calling upon President Bush to pressure the Security Council into deploying United Nations troops to Darfur even should the Sudan government refuse to give its consent.

Elsewhere in Sirte, Libya, a mini-summit meeting was held between the presidents of Libya, Sudan, Chad and Algeria yesterday where the leaders discussed, according to press reports quoted by *AlRai AlAam* daily, relations between Sudan and Chad and the issue of Darfur on which President Bashir gave a detailed briefing of Sudan's rejection to a deployment and on how such a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur would adversely affect security in the region.

State minister for foreign affairs, Al-Sammani Al-Waseela, says the African Union summit was also a good opportunity for Sudan to explain its position. He said Sudan bases its rejection to a United Nations Darfur force on past experiences where international forces deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine and so on have only contributed to exacerbating the situation in those countries.

The state minister also said that the President also took the opportunity availed by the summit to explain that the Sudan government has not asked the African Union to leave but that the African Union Peace & Security Council had decided in an earlier meeting that it would not be able to remain beyond the 30th September date.

Earlier, African Heads of State and Government expressed total rejection to the internationalisation of the Darfur crisis, reports *AllIntibaha* and most major local dailies, quoting agencies.

The reports say the leaders participating at the African Union summit meeting in Sirte, Libya, expressed support for an African solution to the problem of Darfur and affirmed in the final communiqué that they would spare no effort in realizing peace in all parts of the African continent.

Nafei says Chinese government backs Sudan position

Nafei Ali Nafei, President Bashir's advisor for political affairs and deputy head of the National Congress Party, said that the Chinese government has expressed willingness to support Sudan on the issue of UNSCR 1706, reports *AlAdhwaa*.

Nafei who is just back from a visit to China said that he discussed UNSCR 1706 with officials there and told them that it serves US and UK interests. He said that the resolution focuses on clauses that call for reforms in the police and judiciary in the Sudan and can only be described as a departure from the Darfur Peace Agreement.

He said the Sudan government is ready to cooperate with international and regional organisations to realise security in Darfur but pointed out that this should not be pegged to a deployment of United Nations troops.

Nafei told the press in Khartoum that the Chinese government had expressed readiness to open dialogue with the international community over Sudan's views towards UNSCR 1706.

AU hold discuss with Darfur conflicted parties about the international troops

(*Rai AlShaab* 9th Sep. **Khrt**) AU spokesman, Noor-el-deen el-Mezni, said that consultations are underway with all parties to the Darfur problem on the issue of international troops for the region ahead of the forthcoming meeting of the African Union Peace & Security Council in New York on the 18th of this month.

He said that the meeting of the 18th will discuss the developments on the Darfur issue.

Prominent persons launch initiative for Darfur

While Sudan government and the Security Council each campaign to garner support for their respective views on the issue of a deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur, prominent political figures [*including National Congress Party activists*] are in efforts to avert a confrontation between Sudan and the international community over the issue and to find lasting solutions to the problem of Darfur.

AlAyaam has learnt that one time President of Sudan, retired Field-Marshal AbdelRahman Mohamed Hassan Suwar-el-dahab and Dr. Gizouli Dafallah [*Prime Minister during that time*] and a number of other distinguished persons intend to hold talks with President Bashir, Umma's Sadiq el-Mahdi, among others, to chart a possible agreement.

* A related story comes under the Darfur/DPA subheading and under the title: Minister in S. Darfur cabinet says IDPs in camps do not trust government officials *plus the interview with Mubarak el-Fadhil under Editorials and Commentaries*

CPA

Joint military committee calls for solutions to the problems of the OAGs

The joint SAF, SPLA concluded a meeting yesterday in Juba. The meeting mainly focused on the issue of the OAGs, reports *AlSudani*.

Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajiang of the SPLA presided over the meeting and said that the meeting culminated in agreement between the two sides to, respectively, integrate those militias that claim alliance.

The two sides also agreed to hold the next meeting of the joint committee in Khartoum on 11th October.

Constitution review commission to resume work next week

The constitution review commission is set to resume work next week after a 6 months break, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

The Presidency of the Republic started consultations since yesterday with members of the Constitution Review Commission to discuss what laws urgently need amendment.

GoNU

Opposition forces call for continued demonstrations over price rise

Two weeks of demonstrations against the price rise and the opposition parties seem to be planning for more despite the police clamp down.

AlRai AlAam reports that opposition forces will be holding a meeting at Umma House tomorrow to discuss the legal aspects of such demonstrations and the trials some protestors were brought to face.

The opposition political forces issued a statement yesterday condemning the price rise and have called on citizens to continue protesting the increase in prices and force government to retract. They also called for an improvement in the manner and tools employed in such demonstrations.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

SPLA force defies superiors and raids PDF headquarters in Juba

A number of SPLA combatants raided the PDF headquarters in Juba and detained 8 unarmed PDF members inside demanding to see evidence of ownership of the property, *AlAdhwaa* reports.

A PDF source speaking on condition of anonymity said that 12 armed SPLA members defied an order by a superior SPLA officer to release the PDF members on the grounds that they were following orders from higher authorities.

SPLM politburo of differences with V-P Taha

The political office of the SPLM is to convene tomorrow in Juba, Deputy Secretary-General of the SPLM, Yassir Arman, told *AlSudani*.

The meeting will mainly discuss the Darfur issue, power sharing with National Congress Party and democratic transformation.

Arman said the meeting will also focus on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the leaderships of the National Congress Party and the SPLM.

More patience needed with South Sudan Govt - Speaker

(*SRS/ST* – 10th Sept. **Kapoeta**) The speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga, has appealed to the people of southern Sudan to have more patience with the government as it works to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Addressing the 2nd session of the assembly on Wednesday 6 September in Juba, Igga said the government lacks media to inform the public on their progress in implementing the CPA. He called on the government to strengthen the media to inform and educate the public on what the government has done since the signing of the CPA and some politicians opposing the government can easily mislead the public as a result.

Igga also stressed that the GOSS will fight corruption in the region and will ensure the government's transparency and accountability to all people.

6500 Sudanese refugees to return home from Uganda by December

(*Xinhua/ST* – 8th Sept. **Kampala**) According to a statement issued Friday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Kampala, 6,800 refugees from the northern Uganda districts of Arua, Moyo and Hoima will be repatriated between September and December 2006.

A total of 4,543 Sudanese refugees from Arua and Moyo have already returned to southern Sudan since early this year.

Montserrat Feixas Vihe, the UNHCR deputy country representative told a meeting of diplomats, donors and government officials this week that since the beginning of this year 27,041 Sudanese had so far registered to get repatriation, out of the 172,310 living in refugee settlements in Uganda.

She said the refugee agency would facilitate the voluntary return of 15,000 refugees next year, of which 10,000 were organized and 5,000 were spontaneous movements.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Chadian army, rebels clash in the east

(*Reuters/ST* – 10th Sept. **N'Djamena**) Chad government forces fought with rebels opposed to President Idriss Deby on Sunday in the east of the country, a rebel spokesman and government military officers said.

The rebel spokesman, Abdoulaye Abdelkarim, told Reuters by telephone that a force of more than 2,000 fighters led by his brother, Mahamat Nour, who heads a military faction of the rebel United Front for Democratic Change (FUC), was on the move in the Guereda region in eastern Chad, which borders with Sudan with the objective of heading towards the capital, 700 km.

Government military officers in N'Djamena, who asked not to be named, said clashes between government forces and rebels had taken place at Aram Kollé, 65 km (40 miles) east of the town of Biltine.

"Government forces are in control of the situation," one officer said.

Neither side gave details of casualties.

DPA signatories [except SLM-Minnawi] threaten to return to war and to shelve the agreement

The signatories to the DPA have threatened to return to war and to shelve the agreement because of what they see as they being marginalized by SLM-Minnawi, *AlAdhwa* reports.

They warn that the situation may worsen if the NCP and SLM-Minnawi continue to marginalize them particularly around the power and wealth issues.

They claim that they had presented a list of their nominees to constitutional and executive positions but to no avail.

Minister in S. Darfur cabinet says IDPs in camps do not trust government officials

The minister for agriculture and animal resources in the Government of South Darfur State has expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

According to *AlAdhwa*, the minister said that the government officials could not reach IDP camps because they and Arab organizations are not trusted by camp residents.

He underlined the need for the presence of humanitarian organizations in the area because the IDPs are totally dependent on these organizations and government has failed to assist them.

He also pointed out that the government has failed in its efforts to convince the IDPs to return home from the camps and says the IDPs regard the DPA as lacking and demand as preconditions for their return that all parties sign the agreement and compensations be paid, that the Janjaweed withdraw from their camps and that government guarantee it will not back the Janjaweed.

The minister further pointed out that food security is under threat in Darfur with the diminishing quantity of reserve. He also echoed SPLM support for the deployment of a United Nations force to Darfur.

Other Developments:

Doctors in Khartoum hospital go on strike

Rai AlShaab reports that bone specialists at the Khartoum Hospital may go on strike within the coming two days in protest against the deteriorating conditions of the unit that they say does not allow them to provide services to their clients.

Delays in payment despite the high charges for surgeries have also been cited as another reason they may go on strike.

Editorials and Commentaries:

***Rai AlShaab* interview with Mubarak el-Fadhil, leader of the Umma (reform agenda)**

Excerpts:

- On the situation in Sudan, he describes it as shaky and cites the delay in the peace process and the developments in Darfur. He said that the National Congress Party had expected an improvement in its relations with the West especially following the concessions it made to the SPLM and the signing of the CPA but then the escalation in Darfur caused an imbalance in the National Congress Party as did the death of Garang that also turned the SPLM into a movement of protestors.
- Of the fate of the CPA and the DPA, he said that the CPA is limping while the DPA was stillborn. He expects more surprises to come up.
- Asked on his position towards UNSCR 1706, he said that 70% of the state budget goes for defence while the remaining 30% to the rest of Sudan and this calls for a true federal system of government, that people should agree on an Interim Period, elections and a scrutiny of state revenue but added that the government only wants to proceed in its wrong ways. He describes the government plan for security in Darfur as a “funny” plan and said he was sure that the person who presented the plan to the United Nations did not read the government’s obligations as set out in the DPA. Government, he adds, now seeks to deploy 32,000 troops in Darfur and forcefully wipe out the NRF. He said that the only way therefore is for the deployment of a United Nations force to control the situation.
- Asked whether he was sure the United Nations was capable of protecting civilians in the region, he confidently answered that no one but the United Nations can bring control to the region.
- On whether he is not afraid of a repeat of the situation in Iraq and Lebanon should United Nations troops deploy to Darfur, he said that the situation in Iraq was different because it was an invasion by the US and the UK; in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, a Muslim, Arab leader accepted the deployment of international forces because he felt such a deployment was in the interest of the people of Lebanon. Why then, he asked, should Sudan reject such a deployment.
- Asked on guarantees for stability should United Nations troops deploy against the background of the escalation in Darfur, he asked, “what then is the alternative; should Sudan leave the Salvation regime go on with its military option that has a track record of failure?” the other option, he adds is for the government to step down and the political forces agree on a plan that incorporates all the people of Darfur including the NRF and all other combatant groups that will end in an Interim Period led by President Bashir and in which the National Congress Party will be represented like any other party while the policepersons and army personnel hailing from the Darfur region will serve as peacekeepers.
- Asked whether he thinks United Nations forces want to come to Darfur to really protect the civilian population, he said that these are neutral forces that have no special agenda and operate according to the United Nations Charter. He pointed out that the United

Nations is currently providing for the people there; the WFP has bought wheat from the government for distribution to the population there. He also said people should not mix between the issue of Palestine and Darfur because the Darfur issue is not linked to any international conflict.