



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

The United Nations condemns attack on civilians in Darfur

(*AlAyaam* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) The United Nations has called upon the parties to the Darfur conflict to respect the ceasefire and stop targeting civilians.

UNMIS' Deputy Spokesperson, Bahaa el-Koussy said that the United Nations condemns any attack targeting civilians and that member states of the United Nations have committed themselves to the "responsibility to protect" civilians from crimes against humanity and human rights abuse.

The SAF has denied recently accusations from the NRF of having carrying out aerial bombardment on areas around Kutum. The office of the spokesperson for the SAF said that the government controls all the areas around Kutum.

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

African Union Peace & Security Council to hold crucial meeting in New York today ahead of Security Council meeting

(*AlAyaam* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) The African Union Peace & Security Council holds a meeting in New York later today to decide on the future of the AMIS forces on the ground in Darfur.

Meanwhile SRSJ Jan Pronk who is also in New York is expected to present a report before the Security Council on the situation on the ground in Darfur and to hold consultations with council members on the way forward.

RSA president, Thabo Mbeki, stated following separate meetings with Secretary-General Annan and President Bashir that the Sudanese president did not want to participate in the meeting but will now do so in order to facilitate discussions over the issue of Darfur.

Meanwhile, the *SudanTribune.com* reports that Sudan is expected to withdraw its deadline for African Union peacekeepers to leave the war-torn western region of Darfur at the end of this month, when AU foreign ministers discuss the mounting crisis in New York today, London based The Guardian cited a senior official in Khartoum.

"Sources in Khartoum now say the government is willing to let the African Union remain in Darfur, and accept some changes in its powers. It is likely we will arrive at an extension of the African Union mandate when the ministers meet in New York."

There seems to be a common interest. It will give time for all sides to find a way out of this," Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, a senior presidential adviser, told the Guardian yesterday. The government wants to explore what it calls "African Union Plus", a plan to keep the AU troops but give them extra back-up in the form of helicopters and surveillance technology from western states.

V-P Taha presents government's Darfur plan before the cabinet

(*AlSahafa* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) Vice-President Taha tabled before the Council of Ministers yesterday an alternative government plan for Darfur.

A spokesperson for the Council of Ministers said that the plan that government intends to carry out should the African Union regardless of whether the African Union remains or leaves would allow the government to take full charge of security and the humanitarian situation in the region and expedite the formation of the interim government institutions for Darfur.

On the security aspects, the V-P said that the plan would allow the government to deal decisively with Darfur Peace Agreement holdout groups. He pointed out however that this does not mark the outbreak of a new war but is rather a practical step towards the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Of the humanitarian aspects, Taha pointed out that the government is fully capable of carrying out humanitarian work in the region. He said that government in fact currently provides 50% of the relief assistance distributed to the needy in the region while foreign relief agencies mainly provide the logistics for these relief operations.

SPLM urges Sudan govt to accept UN troops

(*Reuters; AlAyaam* – **Khrt.**) In its strongest statement yet on Darfur, the SPLM has urged the government to allow United Nations peacekeepers Darfur.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement said it took a formal decision to back a U.N. force at a 3-day meeting of its top leadership in Juba in south Sudan.

"We reiterate our support for the deployment of United Nations forces in Darfur for the protection of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian services," Yassir Arman, a senior SPLM official, said after returning to Khartoum.

"We urge the National Congress Party and other partners in the government of national unity to consent to the deployment of United Nations troops in Darfur," Arman told Reuters.

"We want to avoid confrontations between Sudan and the international community, and we want to protect the civilians in Darfur," he said.

Arman said the SPLM leadership was also calling for an immediate ceasefire in Darfur, as well as for dialogue between parties to the conflict and reconciliation between different ethnic groups.

The SPLM was also pushing for dialogue between Sudan and the United States government to repair relations.

"We are ready to work and to support the realisation of a meeting between Presidents (George W.) Bush and Bashir, and more importantly for its success," he said.

Sudan ruling party criticises SPLM support for UN force

(*ST, AlSahafa, AllIntibaha* – **Khrt.**) The deputy chairman of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and head of South sector Riek Gai has criticised the position of "some political

forces” in favour of the deployment of the United Nations force in Darfur. He added that the “UN resolution 1706 would lead to the destruction of the Sudan”.

Speaking to the NCP Southern Sudan youth leadership meeting in Khartoum, Gai said he would lead the resistance alongside president Omar al-Bashir against “the aggressors” to defend the integrity of the territory.

SLM’s Mini Minnawi and the SPLM have both publicly announced their support for the deployment of the international force in Darfur. This public support of the two partners in the government of the national unity will certainly weaken the position of the National Congress Party in front of the international community, say analysts and will also deepen the lack of trust between the two partners of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and complicate the resolution of outstanding issues.

Sudan NGOs: Spend money on Darfur aid, not troops

(*Reuters/ST* – 17th Sept. **Khrt.**) Sudanese civil society groups called on the United Nations on Sunday to re-allocate any money earmarked for peacekeepers in the war-torn Darfur region toward humanitarian aid and development instead.

In a protest march coinciding with a planned global "Day for Darfur" backing the deployment of an international force for western Sudan, dozens of Sudanese pro-government activists marched to U.N. offices in Khartoum to oppose new peacekeepers.

In a written statement to the United Nations, they rejected rising pressure on Sudan to accept the deployment of more than 20,000 U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur, where political and ethnic violence has killed tens of thousands of people since 2003 and has worsened in recent months.

The protesters, many of them women, chanted "Down, down, USA" and waved banners vowing to resist the deployment of a U.N. force. One protester vowed to turn himself into a suicide bomber to fight any troops.

Another protester carried an effigy dressed in a white burial shroud representing the United Nations in Darfur.

Protests in New York target violence in Darfur

(*AP/ST* – 18th Sept. **New York**) Thousands of people rallied in Central Park, New York, on Sunday to protest violence in the Darfur region.

A crowd estimated by police at 20,000 heard speeches about Darfur interspersed with musical performances on Sunday. Organizers said more than 30,000 attended.

"People have to stand with the oppressed against their oppressors and urge their leaders to extend any political leverage or capital that they have over the government of Sudan," said Omer Ismail, who is with the Washington-based Darfur Peace and Development humanitarian aid organization.

U.S. Rep Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican, said the people of Darfur have "had atrocities imposed upon them that no human being would have to face."

He added that China, which has major oil interests in Sudan, should "put its economic interests in Sudan aside and say enough is enough."

Former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler likened the violence in Darfur to the Holocaust of World War II.

Sudan Human Rights Center urges government to accept UNSCR 1706

(*The Citizen* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) While granting President Bashir the legitimate right to protect national sovereignty, the head of the Khartoum International Human Rights Centre, Dr. Ahmed el-Mufti, maintains that he does not see Sudan being at risk of losing its sovereignty.

He observes that the government position against UNSCR 1706 is based on misleading and ambiguous information and that such a position would put the country in a critical position and push Sudan into a dangerous confrontation with the international community.

He said flouting resolution 1706 would worsen Sudan's relations with NGOs and donor countries and aggravate the country's position with its creditors.

CPA

Kirr to visit South Kordofan to resolve the differences between the partners

(*AlAyaam* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) The SPLM says First V-P Salva Kiir will make an unprecedented meeting to South Kordofan State.

SPLM's Yassir Arman said that the SPLM is deeply concerned with the issue of the Nuba Mountains and that the V-P will acquaint himself to the difficulties that hamper the implementation of the Protocol on South Kordofan.

Constitution review commission resumes work

(*AlAyaam* – 18th Sept. **Khrt.**) The constitution review commission resumes work today in a meeting at the Friendship Hall amidst tensions caused by differences over NDA representation.

The NDA insist an increase in representation from 3 to 9 members and base their argument on the Cairo Agreement signed with the National Congress Party while commission chairman, el-Dirderi Mohamed Ahmed (NCP), maintains that the CPA has already settled the issue of representation.

GoNU

Protest in el-Obeid over price hike

(*AlAyaam* – 18th Sept. **el-Obeid**) The Umma Party says a group of people have managed to hand a memorandum to the Government of North Kordofan State protesting the increase in prices of sugar and combustibles.

But regional state officials have denied the issue and say that the march was illegal and authorities blocked the people from proceeding to hand over their memorandum.

** At least 10 columnists of local dailies did not write today in protest over the price hike. These include 3 from AlSudani, 3 from AlAyaam and 4 from AlSahafa dailies.*

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

LRA's Kony arrives at neutral camp in Sudan for truce

(AP/ST – 17th Sept. - **Nabanga, Sudan**) Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony has turned up at a neutral camp in southern Sudan as part of a truce to end 19 years of conflict in the east African nation, a rebel official said Sunday.

Kony, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, arrived at Ri-Kwangba camp, just 550 yards north of the border with Congo, said Martin Ojul, the head of the rebel team negotiating a peace deal with the Ugandan government.

He gave no further details on when Kony appeared.

Kony joins his deputy, Vincent Otti, whose arrival at the camp was announced on Sept. 11. Otti is also wanted by the Hague-based court.

Some 3,500 fighters and 400 women and children are also at the camp, according to Capt. Sunday Ocaya, who is also part of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army's negotiating team.