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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Ban Ki-moon unveils trust fund to back diplomatic efforts to end Darfur conflict

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the creation of a trust fund to support next month's Darfur peace talks after chairing a high-level meeting in which more than two dozen countries and regional groups pledged their support for the joint road map of the United Nations and African Union to end the conflict in the war-racked Sudanese region.

Today's meeting at UN Headquarters in New York was "very constructive [and] useful... We will continue to build upon what we have reaffirmed" in the lead-up to the peace talks between the Sudanese Government and Darfur's many rebel groups on 27 October in Libya, Mr. Ban told journalists tonight.

Mr. Ban, who co-chaired the high-level meeting with AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konaré, said the trust fund would help facilitate the diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict, which has led to the deaths of more than 200,000 people since 2003.

UN says to remain 'vigilant' over Sudan's compliance on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20 Sept. NEW TOYRK) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in an interview aired Thursday that the United Nations would be "vigilant" in ensuring Sudan complies with Security Council demands to allow humanitarian assistance to get to Darfur's refugees.

Speaking on CNN television, Ban said he had been assured by Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir that the aid for the millions of suffering people in the war-torn region would flow smoothly. Ban also said that the deployment of a joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force in the region has made "credible progress."

The interview came as Ban readied to host together with AU Commission chief Alpha Omar Konare a one-day meeting Friday of the key players in the Darfur conflict, focusing on ways to end more than four years of bloodshed in the western Sudanese region.

UN Envoy to Darfur describes his mission as domesticating cats

(*AlAyam*) UN Special Envoy to Darfur Ian Eliasson described Darfur crisis as “one of the most complicated issues he ever dealt with in his 25-year professional career diplomat in the UN.

However, Eliasson spent the past few months roving, along with AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim debating with Tribal and militias leaderships on means of finding out durable solution to Darfur issue. He said that his mission in Darfur was similar to that who is domesticating the cats adding that Darfur issue was one of the toughest missions he ever in encountered in his life.

UNMIS celebrates the International Day peace in El Fasher

(*Al Fasher Radio*) In a speech delivered at the UNMIS-organized celebration of the International Day of Peace “and Ceasefire”, and in cooperation with the state government, the Deputy Wali of N. Darfur, who is also the Minister of Social Affairs, underlined the desire of the People of Darfur (for peace) and their aspirations that peace will overwhelm all parts of Darfur and that Darfurians would enjoy security, stability and sustainable development.

The celebration was held at the Legislative Council and was attended by members of the State Government, leaders of the Legislative Council, the AU Mission, the organizations, representatives of Political Parties and Native Administration, as well as public figures. The Deputy Wali expressed hopes for the success of the upcoming Tripoli negotiations in ending the Darfur crisis.

In the same celebration speeches were delivered by Head of UNMIS in Al Fasher and the Deputy Head of the AU Mission who both stressed the keenness of the UN and AU to achieve peace in Darfur, praising the cooperation of the government and its various apparatus with the UN and AU missions, and calling upon the armed groups to stop violence and resort to peace. The Chairman of Peace and Reconciliation Committee in the Legislative Council asserted the full support to all efforts that aim at achieving peace and praised the great role which the UN is playing to solve the Darfur Conflict.

Russia to send military observers to Darfur - UN

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. UNITED NATIONS) Russia is planning to send a group of military experts to Darfur to join the largest UN peacekeeping operation to date, Russia’s envoy to the UN said Saturday.

In June, Khartoum agreed, after almost a year of rejection, to a peacekeeping operation in Darfur, to be run jointly by the UN and the African Union (AU), which

will provide a total of 23,000 troops. The 53-member AU currently has a 7,000-strong force in the region, but has so far been unable to stop fighting.

Russia is the third in the world in terms of the number of military observers participating in UN peacekeeping missions.

Indonesia considering UN request to send troops to Darfur

(SudanTribune.com – 21 Sept. JAKARTA) Indonesia is still considering a United Nations request for sending troops to Darfur region in southern Sudan, a senior official said.

"We are still considering the request and will discuss it at a ministerial coordinating meeting on political, security and legal affairs," Antara news agency quoted Defense Minister Juwiono Sudarsono as saying here on Friday. He said he still had to ascertain the readiness and availability of personnel as well as the weaponry needed for the mission before deciding to send troops there.

Indonesia would also consider the African Union troops' needs and readiness with regard to peacekeeping efforts in the region that has been ravaged by violence over the past four years, he said.

Meanwhile, the head of the TNI Headquarters' information center, Rear Admiral Sagom Tamboen, said the TNI was ready to take part in the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, "if requested". Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda earlier has said Indonesia was hoping the deployment of AU-UN troops in Darfur could be carried out this year.

Tanzania to send 1000 peacekeepers to Darfur

(SudanTribune.com – 20 Sept. DAR ES SALAAM) Tanzania will send 1,000 troops to Darfur as part of the African Union and U.N. peacekeeping force, President Jakaya Kikwete said.

President Kikwete told the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in New York Tuesday that Tanzania would like to help find a lasting solution to the political impasse in the western Sudan region. However, he said the country would only dispatch the force once the AU and UN completed the necessary logistics to facilitate the move. Initial arrangement was for the joint force to be operational by the first week of next month.

HRW urges sanctions against Sudan to stop Darfur attacks

(SudanTribune.com – 20 Sept. NEW YORK) The United Nations should impose sanctions on the Sudanese government if it continues to attack civilians and humanitarian workers in the war-torn Darfur region, an international human rights organization said in a new report.

Human Rights Watch accused the international community of failing to take effective action despite increased global attention on the Darfur crisis.

"Concerned governments and international institutions should be prepared to strengthen the less-than-robust track record on maintaining pressure on the government of Sudan and other parties to the conflict to meet their obligations under law," the group said in a report released Wednesday.

The human rights situation in Darfur has "evolved from an armed conflict between rebels and the government into a violent scramble for power and resources," according to the 76-page report.

No peaceful settlement without handing the two suspects, ICC prosecutor tells UN

(Rai AlShaab, Reuter, Sudan Tribune) The Chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo said that the world must ensure that Sudan turn over two Darfur war crimes suspects.

"The law has to be respected" the low-key prosecutor told reporters at the UN headquarters yesterday in his strongest statements ever on the Darfur case ahead of a UN-AU high level meeting.

Ocampo has been pressing for the inclusion of the outstanding arrest warrants against two Sudanese officials in the agenda of the meeting. However it is not clear whether this will be the case.

The Sudanese envoy at the UN Ambassador Abdulmahmoud Mohammad slammed Ocampo's remarks saying he was trying to "destroy the peace process". Mohammad said that the ICC prosecutor was "wasting the taxpayers' money of the ICC state parties" through his continuous visits to the UN headquarters.

The Sudanese diplomat vowed that his government would not extradite the suspects. But Ocampo issued a warning saying that he will inform the UN Security Council in his next report in December that Sudan is not cooperating with the ICC.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan commemorates Peace Day

(Akhbar Alyaum) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has called on the people worldwide to cease fire in observance of the International Day of Peace (IDP).

Moon pledged, in his message, which was read out by Deputy SRSG to Sudan Ameerah Haq on the celebration marking occasion organized by the University of Medical Sciences and Technology, in collaboration with UNMIS, to exert utmost efforts to make all days a peace, admitting that displaced camps in Darfur and Chad to the ruin streets of Baghdad indicate endeavors for peace are shrouded with dangers.

He stresses that this day was an occasion to evaluate the efforts of the UN aimed at promoting peace. He called on all countries and fighters to halt hostilities and asked people everywhere to observe a minute of silence. He insisted on the necessity of determining to find out means for durable and lasting peace.

On his part, Presidential Advisor Dr. Ghazi Salah Eddin appealed on the UN to lay foundations of global peace, asserting that peace would not be maintained unless the people bolster the UN Charter by working to institutionalize the basis of justice.

Dr. Salah Eddin emphasized the government's adherence to the peace option, saying that peace was not political promises, but an action in the society, which requires interaction.

Meanwhile, Parliament Deputy Speaker Atim Grang said that peace means the return of the displaced to their villages describing what had been achieved due to the peace agreements was not sufficient, as the war in some parts of the country is still flaring up.

In the same context, Chairman of the National Council for Press and Publications Prof. Ali Shumo hailed the role being played by the UN Secretary –General Ki Moon describing Moon as a wise man navigating a way which resists any effects.

In the meantime, Chief of the Special Media Campaigns at UNMIS Jordan Dakamseh stressed that the UN was determined to boost peace parties in Sudan in a bid to guarantee the durability of peace in Sudan.

He assured that UNMIS would join hands with the Sudanese universities and the civil society organizations to disseminate the culture of peace.

Sudan denies rape and torture of Ugandans in Juba

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. KAMPALA) The Sudan government has described reports of harassment, sexual abuse, torture and murder faced by Ugandans in Southern Sudan as "isolated incidences which can happen anywhere".

Sudan's justice minister, Mohamed Ali Mardi told journalists in Kampala on Friday, that the mistreatment of Ugandan traders in southern Sudan should not be considered a policy and pattern of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS).

Al Mardi said "If there is any incident of killing or harming, people should not escalate it," the Ugandan Sunday Monitor reported. "I want to assure you that the policy of the GOSS is that all Ugandans and Kenyans citizens are treated with respect and treated as brothers and friends," Mr. Mardi said.

There are now fears that the ongoing situation could dampen not only diplomatic relations between the two governments, but also the booming cross-border trade, the Ugandan weekly said.

Sudan denies fighting with rebels in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20 Sept. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese army denied on Thursday an allegation that it had involved in a fighting with an armed rebel group in the war-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur.

A Sudanese army officer made the denial to Xinhua after a rebel leader claimed on Wednesday that his fighters had launched an attack on government troops in the village of Dobow in the central Jabal Marra region in Darfur, leaving 45 people dead, including 40 government soldiers.

"This allegation is untrue" and "we don't have information indicating fighting taking place in the place mentioned," the army officer who refused to be named told Xinhua.

However, the spokesperson of the SLM Abdelshafi faction, reaffirmed to Sudan Tribune that the fighting still going on in Dobow. He further said that rebel troops control totally the area and they repelled the government forces.

US Florida to drop Sudan investments

(*SudanTribune.com* – 20 Sept. FOLRIDA) Florida's public employee retirement fund will divest nearly \$1.3 billion (€930 million) invested with 21 companies doing business in Iran or Sudan, an action state officials hope will be imitated across the nation. The State Board of Administration authorized the divestiture Wednesday.

"You will be telling every one of these companies that from this day forward we won't invest another dollar, Florida's public dollars, in those companies," state Sen. Ted Deutch, the law's sponsor, told the board.

At least six other states have similar bans on investing in companies doing business in Sudan but Florida is the first to pass such a law applying to Iran, Deutch said.

The law bars investing pension money in any company doing business in Sudan or in Iran's energy sector because both countries are on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring nations. Iran is suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons and Sudan for genocide in its Darfur region.

Experts report on Abyie creates crisis to CPA, Miseria says

(*Al Rai AlAam*) Miseria Tribe's Spokesman Gen. Mahdi Babo Nimer has emphasized that the foreign experts report on Abyie created a problem that will undermine the whole peace process.

Speaking to the (SMC) Nimir noted that Sudan is confronted with a challenge of a settlement based on a compromising solution, saying that Miseria challenged to survive or not. He pointed out that Miseria and Dinka Ngok tribes have been representing the symbol of peaceful and social co-existence in Abyie area, saying that the oil factor as well as the agenda has complicated the issue. Nimir stressed that 57 documents presented by the government compared to one have proven the priority inhabitation to the Miseria tribe.

Technical team set up to identify needs of IDPs resettlements

(*AlSudani*) A technical team comprising the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and other concerned ministries was formed to conduct urgent survey in a bid to assess the necessary requirements to resettle the IDPs and refugees in Eastern Sudan.

President Assistant Musa Mohamed Ahmed and Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Ismael would pay inspection visit next week for Eastern Sudan to follow up the progress of de-mining and IDPs repatriation.

A political detainee admitted to hospital for emergency treatment

(AlSahafa) Deputy Chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Ali Mahmoud Hasanain, who is accused of attempted coup along with others, admitted Thursday to Sahiroun Hospital due to increase of hypertension. Member of the Defense Board Muiz Hadra told *(AlSahafa daily)* that the defense submitted two applications to Khartoum North Criminal Court's Judge Mutasim Tajelsir pending his decision on Saturday.

Rebel group accused of threatening state security confessed

(Rai AlAam, Reuter) Sudanese authorities have detained several supporters of a Darfur rebel leader after clashes with police in Khartoum, reliable source at the interior ministry said.

Supporters of Abdul Wahid el-Nur, the founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), took to the streets on Thursday to back his conditional refusal to attend peace talks scheduled with the government next month.

"The police foiled an attempt to create disorder and arrested some of them," the source said. He said a group of about 20 protesters had tried to set fire to a fuel tanker that was offloading at a nearby gas station. "Six people sustained various injuries in the incident," he said without elaboration.

The source said the accused persons registered judicial confessions and criminal complaints under articles 52,53,69,77,26 and 182 pertinent to causing security instability, possession of illegal weapons and spurring public disorder.

One of the protesters, Mohammed Babiker, told Reuters the demonstration was peaceful and aimed at supporting Nur's conditions for attending next month's peace talks in Libya to end the 4-1/2-year conflict in Darfur.

Akol conducts discussion with US administration

(AlSudani) Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol discussed with a number of senior officials at the US Department of State on the situations in Darfur and the pending issues between the two countries. Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdulmohammed Abdulhalim told *(AlSudani daily)* that Akol met, separately, with Deputy Foreign Minister, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs, and the US Special Envoy to Sudan. Akol is scheduled to meet Monday in Washington other senior officials for the same purpose.

SPLM/NCP differences in Blue Nile state

(AlSudani) The SPLM and the NCP have agreed to overcome differences between the two parties on the locality of Tadamoun, which was set up by the former Wali

(Governor) and led the boycott of SPLM representatives to the sessions of the executive and legislative bodies in the State.

In a joint statement issued Saturday by the State Wali Gen. Malik Agar and his deputy Ahmed Karamino the two partners agreed that the locality be established in the borders of the administrative unit at Wau provided the previous administrative remain valid as it is.

Donors grant \$22million for census

(*AlShari AlSyasai*) Director –General of the Central Bureau of Statistic (CBS) Prof. Awad Hag Ali has said that the donors paid the sum of \$ 22 million as full commitment of their contribution to census for the current year.

He told (SUNA) that the government contributed \$ 12.5 million out of \$ 30 million adding that it would be the remaining sum of \$ 17.5 million late next Oct. He pointed that the donors support represented in the technical aspect regarding the provision of vehicles, solar calculators, printing the forms and the directories to the counters, supervisors and the observers. Ali underlined that the government's aid would be in the form of payments of the counters as well as training of training of trainers.

GoSS

South Sudan VP confirms failure to bring Darfur rebel leader to talks

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. JUBA) The Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Riek Machar Teny, has confirmed that the historical leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/ Army (SLM/A), Abdul Wahid Mohamed al-Nur, has refused to participate in the upcoming peace talks on Darfur scheduled to take place at the end of October in Tripoli, Libya.

In a press statement on Friday 21 September at Juba International Airport shortly after his arrival from Paris, France — where he met with Abdul Wahid al-Nur — Riek Machar said the SLM leader has presented a number of pre-conditions before he could decide to join the peace process.

Machar pointed out that the rebel leader should accept peace negotiations without the pre-conditions so that he could represent and negotiate his faction's position at the negotiations table.

Eritrean musicians visits South Sudan's Rumbek

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. RUMBEK) Eritrean ambassador to Sudan visited the capital of the Lakes States last week accompanied by a musical troupe to boost cultural relations with southern Sudan.

Ambassador Alem Negash Senegal on September 19 was received at Rumbek airstrip by Lakes State minister for Information, Culture, Youth and Sport Adak Costa Mapuor who welcomed the visit of the Eritrean delegation.

Senegal said that the Eritrean troupe is visiting different states in southern Sudan to strengthen bilateral ties between southern Sudan and Eritrea. The Eritrean delegation fled to Upper Nile from the Lakes.

The Eritrean Musicians held a show at SPLA barracks in Malou which is eight (8) mile out from Rumbek town centre, and a second show was organized at Rumbek freedom square on September. The state minister of Information and Communication welcomed the cultural relationship between Eritrea and South Sudan, so that promoting cultural common ground must to be used to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two peoples in Eritrea and Sudan.

Bahr El Ghazal Governor commends UNMIS role in southern Sudan

(Sudan Tribune) United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) chairman in Bahr ElGhazal Badiet Beit called on the non signatories of Darfur peace agreement to ceasefire adopt sound mind and join the wagon of peace in the Sudan. That came in the celebration of the international peace day of UN's second sector, which was held at the stadium of Wau city. The celebrations were attended by the executive, legislative political and military leaders as well as international organizations and civil society organizations.

Governor of Bahr el Ghazal, general Mark Nyipoue on his part commended the role being played by the mission in southern Sudan is securing the peace agreement and supporting the development and service projects in the state.

In the same context, the governor has appealed to the UN mission and the international community to exert efforts to bring about comprehensive peace in Darfur so that Sudan could enjoy stability. Chairman of UN mission in Bahr el Ghazal lauded the role played by the UN mission in the different countries in the world to realize peace for the people.

Life returns to normal in north Uganda thanks to South Sudan – LRA

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The official Spokesperson of the Ugandan rebel Movement, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) this week said life was returning to normal in northern Uganda after twenty-one years of brutal conflict in the region.

Speaking to journalists in Juba, Southern Sudan, on Tuesday, Godfrey Ayoo, said the Government of Southern Sudan's mediated peace talks in Juba has brought about peace to northern Uganda.

He said his LRA movement and the Ugandan government's delegations had now been conducting extensive separate consultations among the people of Uganda in order to come up with mechanisms on implementation of a number of protocols signed during the peace negotiations.

The next round of peace talks in Juba between the two parties is scheduled to resume in October, 2007.

SPLM Secretary-General Amun leads military political delegation to US

(Akhbar Alyaum) SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amun and SPLA's Chief of Staff Gen. Waie Deng left to US leading SPLM political and military delegations to US on several-day tour for consultations with US Department of State's officials, Congress deputies and World Bank experts.

GoSS's Presidential Minister Luka Biong told *(Akhbar Alyaum daily)* that the delegations' visit comes in the context of the bilateral consultations between SPLM and the US Administration with a view to probing the progress of the CPA implementation.

Biong denied the intention of the delegation to request the US intervention in Abyie issue, but, he did not rule out its discussion within the evaluation of the CPA implementation as the US had the upper hand in the initiative of Abyie protocol.

He indicated that the visit would touch on Washington's support to GOSS in view to the commitment it pledged in Oslo donors meetings. Biong added that the military delegation would discuss with concerned US authorities the possibility of rendering technical support to the SPLA as, he noted, the CPA stipulates the SPLA's right to acquire assistance from foreign institutions.

Parliamentary committee to visit South Sudan

(AlSudani) GOSS has agreed on a visit of a parliamentary delegation to the Southern States to discuss a five-year strategic plan and means of its implementation. Chairman of the Peace and Reconciliation Committee at the National Assembly Ali Al-Syed Thursday told *(AlSudani daily)* that the parliamentary delegation to the Southern states include three committees; each committee consists of ten parliamentarians.

Muslims perform religious rituals freely, Bahr ElGhazal governor says

(AlSudani) Deputy Wali of Bahr ElGhazal and Minister of Health Awad Gumma Aman denied any intimidation facing the Muslim community in Wau, stressing that all Muslims are freely performing their religious rituals.

He said there were no any obstacles impeding performing of our religious duties accusing a group, he did not name of sowing seeds of sedition among the people of the South. He disclosed that part of the ancient mosque's fence was removed and as had been earlier circulated the intention of the authorities to remove the whole mosque saying that the partial removal of the fence was carried out in the context of the state' re-planning of the city's streets

Darfur

China urges swift resolution of Darfur crisis

(SudanTribune.com – 22 Sept. UNITED NATIONS) Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Zhai Jun called for efforts to speed up of the Darfur political process in Sudan in order to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the region the official Xinhua reported.

Zhai Jun expounded on China's principled stand and the efforts it made on the Darfur issue in his speech at the second high-level consultation on Darfur held at the UN Headquarters in New York this afternoon.

The Chinese official emphasized the need to continue to bring into play the role of the tripartite mechanism of the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the Sudanese government as the main channel, decide through dialogue and consultation on an equal footing details regarding the implementation of the Hybrid Operation, ensure that peacekeeping operations can be implemented comprehensively and smoothly as soon as possible, and accelerate the political process.

Egypt backs rejection of non-Africans in Darfur peacekeeping force

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. NEW YORK) Egyptian government has brought its support to the rejection of the non-African troops in the peacekeeping force to be deployed in Darfur with in the UN-AU Hybrid Operation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said that the African continent can provide the required numbers to complete the formation of the hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur without having to resort to forces from outside Africa.

Aboul-Gheit who held talks with his Sudanese counterpart, Lam Akol in the sideline of the high level meeting on Darfur in New York yesterday said Egypt has made an overall proposal for participation in the army and police components in the hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur.

According to the official MENA, the Egyptian proposal was welcomed by all participants, primarily the Sudanese government, Aboul-Gheit said. He further said that it was welcomed because it was comprehensive and also due to the standing of the Egyptian military on the international levels and its fine technical and logistic capabilities.

New rebel group says struggling for Darfur independence

(*SudanTribune.com* – 22 Sept. PARIS) A new rebel group said it is resolved to struggle for the independence of Sudan's Darfur region as practical solution to end the suffering of Darfur people.

In a statement signed by Commander Idrees Ibrahim Azrag, the Darfur Independence Front/Darfur Independence Army (DIF/DIA) said that "the exercise of the Right to Self-Determination is the only route to a comprehensive solution to our problems."

The new rebel front expressed dissatisfaction with the current demands of the non signatory movements. It said they will not produce "substantial alterations to the current structural imbalance of the Sudanese state."

The DIF said it is formed from the following groups: the Revolutionary Movements, the Revolutionary Organization of the People of Darfur in the Sudan Armed Forces, Darfur political organizations, the Student Union of Darfur, the Union of Darfur Women, the associations of Darfur people abroad, the Alliance of Tribal

Administration Leaders and the Coalition of Internal Displaced Persons and Refugees from Darfur. This statement is issued since last August but received by the Sudan Tribune yesterday.

Sudan's Bashir skeptical over talks with Darfur rebels

(*SudanTribune.com* – 21 Sept. CAIRO, Egypt) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir expressed doubts over the chances of success for the upcoming negotiations between the government and rebel forces in Darfur because of the many competing guerrilla factions, he said in a television interview Friday.

Speaking to the pan-Arab satellite news channel al-Arabia, al-Bashir also hit out at the United States and other international organizations for claiming that genocide and massacres were taking place in the war torn western Sudanese region.

Al-Bashir, however, dismissed the U.N. reports over the situation maintaining that people working for these organizations are biased and have their own anti-Sudanese agenda.

The Sudanese leader subsequently promised a cease-fire, but fighting has continued to rage across the vast France-sized region.

Al-Bashir went on to deny that the massacres described in press reports and by international observers and rights organizations were taking place, maintaining that the press were being paid off.

Al-Bashir maintained that the rather than being the scene of war crimes, Darfur was just home to a typical conflict between tribes over diminishing resources in the wake of a long drought.

Find attached the full text of the interview

Jamous argue rebel movements to negotiate apart of private agenda

(*AlSudani*) SLM Leading figure Suleiman Jamous has criticized the intimidating tone of the international community to impose sanctions on the rebel movements, if they fail to join Tripoli talks.

He urged the leaders of the movements to join the coming round of talks, scheduled for next Oct., in Tripoli, apart of any personal agenda, blaming the international community and the government for not consulting the rebel movements on the date and venue of the talks.

Sudan accuse Darfur rebel SLM of sabotage plot in capital

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) The Sudanese authorities accused a Darfur rebel group of planning sabotage acts in Khartoum yesterday.

Sudanese police said that unidentified men threw a bomb at a fuel tanker in the middle of a Khartoum busy market. However a police official told the daily Al-Hayat

newspaper that members of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur requested their permission for a demonstration to press for the resolution of the Darfur crisis.

The police official said that the request was denied after which they threatened to stage a bombing campaign inside Khartoum. However rebel sources told Sudan Tribune that thousands took part in demonstrations in various parts of Khartoum yesterday. The police issued statement saying life returned to normal in the market while some people were arrested in connection with attack on the fuel tanker.

Rebel JEM slams Qaeda's call for holy war in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has condemned statements made by Al Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri called for a holy war on the peacekeeping force to be deployed in Darfur.

"JEM strongly condemns Dr Al-Zawaheri statement. It is totally and utterly unacceptable, out of touch, detached from the fact on the real world and it is very insulting to the people of Darfur." said the spokesperson of the rebel group, Ahmed Hussein Adam.

Al Qaeda urged Sudanese Muslims on Thursday to fight African Union and United Nations peacekeeping troops that he said were invading Darfur, and criticized Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for accepting the 26,000-strong joint A.U.-U.N. operation.

The Hybrid Force is not occupying or an invading force, it is however, and a UN mandated force to protect the people of Darfur who are hundred percent Muslims, protecting them from their criminal Muslim Government in Khartoum.

"We witnessed recently several attempts by the Al-Qaeda leaders to exploit the plight and the legitimate cause of the people of Darfur for their own sick and backward propaganda and agenda." Ahmed underlined.

JEM would like put it clearly and loudly to Al-Qaeda and other extremist organizations that: stay out of the issue of Darfur... Stay away from Darfur... We will never allow you to prolong the suffering of our people. The people of Darfur have nothing to do with Al-Qaeda; people of Darfur have no common ground what so ever with AL-Qaeda.

The rebel spokesperson further slammed the "regime hardliners who created such terrorist environment" in the country.

Rebel SLM leader sends road map for peace in Darfur to UN chief

(Sudan Tribune.Com) In a letter addressed yesterday to the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, the influential leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Abdul Wahid Mohamed al-Nur presented a road map comprising three goal-driven phases with the ultimate goal of ending the four year conflict in Darfur.

The United Nations and African Union (AU) leaders will hold on Friday a high-level meeting on Darfur in New York. The meeting is expected to discuss primarily the preparations for the upcoming peace talks scheduled for 27 October in Libya and the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid operation (UNAMID).

In the proposed plan, Abdul Wahid underscores those peace negotiations "Conflict Resolution" should start following the achievement of what he called "conflict suspension". This step encompasses, according to the rebel leader, to stop attacks on civilians, the disarmament of militia and the removal of alien nomads newly resettled by the government in Darfur.

The founder of the rebel SLM suggests the need for confidence building and the sustainable development as final step in the realization of peace in Darfur.

Rebel group boycotts Darfur consultations in Chad

(Sudan Tribune.Com) A Darfur rebel group said it boycotted N'djamena meeting held Wednesday under the auspices of the UN and the AU because they had not being consulted about its timing and the venue.

Sudan Liberation Movement faction of Ahmed Abdelshafi denied in a statement to Sudan Tribune that it had taken part in N'djamena meeting. Nouri Abdulla, Senior Aide to Ahmed Abdelshafi: said "Abdelshafi is not taking part in the Ndjamen meeting, nor has he sent any one to represent him at that meeting".

"Our position paper has argued that, the AU-UN Mediation and its institutions have constantly kept us out of the decision making process vis-à-vis the current political process". He said. "We have decided not to take part in the Ndjamen meeting, as we have not been consulted about its timing and its venue".

Vision International NGO ambushed by unidentified attackers

(AlSahafa) Three workers of Vision International NGO were seriously wounded, when unidentified armed men ambushed the organization's convoy, 25 km, west of Nyala, South Darfur. The attackers released the workers after they robbed their property and Thuria satellite cells. No armed faction declared its responsibility.

Darfur rebel groups fail to agree in N'djamena, suspend unification talks to early Oct.

(Rai AlShaab, Reuter) Rebel groups from Sudan's violent Darfur region on Friday suspended a meeting to forge a common position for peace talks with the government, hoping more rebels would join in the consultations, a mediator said.

Darfur rebel representatives are due to meet Sudanese government officials for peace talks in Libya on Oct. 27.

This week's meeting in neighboring Chad, which began on Wednesday, was designed to agree a rebel negotiating position, but not all the rebel groups showed up.

"The conclusion we came to, at the request of the (rebel) movements, was to hold another meeting at the start of October to allow wider consultations," Boubou Niang, a mediator for the African Union, told Reuters in Chad's capital N'Djamena. "The movements asked us to suspend the meeting and propose another which would allow more people to be represented," he said.

Chadian officials have said five rebel groups from Darfur attended the meeting, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). But key rebel leader Abdul Wahid el-Nur, a founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) whose backing is seen as key to any Darfur peace deal, was absent.

30 Aid workers and citizens killed and wounded in Darfur ambush

(Rai AlShaab, Reuter) Gunmen shot and seriously wounded three aid workers in an attack on a humanitarian convoy in the Darfur region of western Sudan, the U.N. said in a statement.

The United Nations said the two vehicles with eight people on board working for World Vision International (WVI), a non-governmental organization, was ambushed on Thursday near Bulbul Timisgo, a small village in South Darfur State.

"Two WVI staff was shot in the head, and a third in the arm. The remaining staff suffered minor injuries caused by glass fragments and shrapnel," the statement seen by Reuters on Saturday added. "The vehicles were clearly marked as humanitarian transport."

"This is a horrifying and brutal attack on aid staff who is working to save the lives of Sudanese people," the statement said, quoting John Holmes, the U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The United Nations did not say who it believed was behind the attack. But it said the same has seen banditry and clashes between rival Arab tribes during 2007.

In another development, *(Rai AlShaab daily)* reported that 17 persons were killed and at least other 13 injured in an attack by an armed group during the last two days on Um-Shoujaira area, Shairia locality, South Darfur.

A reliable source told the paper that the attack was carried out by a group from Malia tribe, adding that another one ambushed a group of people while performing funeral prayers, which 11 persons dead.

Darfur rebels say not intimidated by threat of sanctions

(SudanTribune.com – 22 Sept. DOHA) Spokesperson of the Sudan Liberation Movement has said they are not intimidated by the threat of sanctions announced by the high level meeting on Darfur yesterday if they boycott peace negotiations in Libya at the end of October.

Yahia Bolad, the spokesperson of the SLM told the Satellite TV al-Jazeera "We are not intimidated by threats of sanctions because our people have been subjected to sanctions for a long time. They are living in refugee camps; they are displaced and subjected to acts of killing and rape on a daily basis."

Bolad said that international forces should be deployed in Darfur; violence against civilians should be stopped. He also reiterates the need to deploy international forces "because the African forces have been present for more than four years and achieved nothing. They did not achieve security or peace."

Participants at the high-level meeting Friday urged all Darfur rebel groups to attend crucial peace talks with Khartoum scheduled in Libya next month or face sanctions.