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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN to discuss protection force for Darfur refugees

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. PARIS) France will chair a UN Security Council meeting Tuesday aiming to hasten the deployment of a UN-European Union force to the Central African Republic and Chad that would protect civilian victims of the conflict in neighboring Darfur.

The discussions will take place as part of a meeting dedicated to African security on the margins of the 62nd General Assembly. It will be only the third time Security Council members have met at the level of head of state or government.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Commission chief Alpha Oumar Konare are also set to attend the meeting. The UN Security Council meeting is likely to be dominated by Darfur.

UN: improvement in humanitarian situation in Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam*) Assistant UN Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes has viewed the humanitarian situation as improving in Darfur states stressing mal-nutrition cases among the infants have reduced.

He said that cooperation between the UN and the government materialized in the improvement of the living conditions of Darfur population. He noted that the expulsion of CARE Director did not affect the smooth passages of humanitarian work in the region saying that the government allows a number of NGOs to operate in Darfur including CARE itself.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Karti does not rule out Nur participation in Tripoli talks

(*AlSahafa*) The State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, on Sunday commended the joint communiqué issued by the High Level consultative meeting on Darfur held in New York on Friday and which underlined the need to boost the peaceful political process in the region and to contribute in the implementation of

hybrid operation in Darfur as well as its call for a cessation of hostilities and observance of ceasefire before the start of the peace talks.

The State Minister has pointed out in press statement following the meeting of the Council of Ministers that the three points tackled by the High level Meeting were positive action that goes in line with the efforts exerted by the international community on how to handle the question of Darfur during the coming period as regards the peaceful political process, the deployment of the Hybrid Operation and the Implementation of the Humanitarian programme.

The State Minister pointed out that the High level Meeting in which all members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union Peace and Security Council members, the United Nations agencies and organizations, the European Union and the Arab League took part, has stressed the African nature of the forces in Darfur and the need to call on the non-signatories of the Abuja Peace Agreement to take part in the coming round of talks while some participants, including the United States of America, represented by its Deputy Secretary of State, have called for sanctioning those who decline to take part in the negotiations.

The State Minister commended the agreement of the African Union and the United Nations on the convening of the coming round of talks in the date and lieu specified and the declaration of the United Nations to set a fund for boosting the political process in Darfur and to facilitate the negotiation process in Tripoli, set for the end of coming October. The State Minister said he considered the position of the United States during the meeting as being advanced and new and that it differed from its previous stands on the question of Darfur.

He said this was due to understanding of the international community that the question of Darfur could not be resolved save through dialogue. He pointed out that there was concord between the visit of the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Al Samani Al Wasilla to Washington recently and the display of good will by the American Administration for the improvement of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The State Minister said he believed the American stands was not emanating from a Sudanese American rapprochement but rather from the American conviction that the problem of Darfur is a result of some other intervention.

The State Minister has pointed to the refusal of the participants to introduce the question of the ICC as one of the axis of the meeting and the issue was removed from the agenda and was replaced by a clause in the communiqué that stressed the capability of the Sudanese government to apprehend any criminal and the impartiality of the Sudanese judiciary system.

He pointed out to the keenness of the parties that provide sanctuary to Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur to participate in the coming negotiation and the fatigue of the international community from the prolongation of the war.

He said the saying that he would not take part in the negotiation is not a final stand, citing the case of some parties who had said they would not take part in the Arosha meetings and then they come and took part in the encounter later on.

Pressure intensifies on Chad to accept international troops in Sudanese borders

(Alwan) The Sudanese government has agreed on the deployment of UN-AU forces in Darfur region following tripartite meeting between the UN, AU and the government held in Addis Ababa.

In a joint statement, read out by AU's Peace and Security Council Commissioner Saeed Gainet at the conclusion of the three parties meeting, the statement confirmed the government acceptance to the deployment forces in the war-torn region of Darfur. Earlier, the AU mention that the consultations, conducted for two days in Addis Ababa, was aimed to pave the way for the deployment of the hybrid operation.

On his part, Sudan's to Cairo Abdulmoneim Mohamed Mabrouk asserted Sudan's determination to promote talks with the UN-AU as regards the situation in Darfur to swerve any US attempts to isolate Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Chadian President told the Arab Ambassadors accredited to the Arab League that he requested UN police to provide security for Darfur refugee camps which accommodated 350.000 persons.

Foreign Ministry spokesman: New York meeting is political push for government efforts to end Darfur crises

(Alwan) Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ali AlSadig described the outcome of New York's meeting on Darfur as "strong political motive" for the Sudanese efforts in solving Darfur crisis where it insisted on the success of the coming round of talks next Oct. in Tripoli.

He told (SUNA) that the meeting sent clear signal to those who reject to take part in the talks that they would confront punishments indicating that the government and US held identical view points in this regard.

AlSadig noted that New York's meeting the solidarity of international community with Sudan as regards the political solution requires expediting the deployment of the hybrid forces. He added that the meeting stressed the necessity of intensifying efforts to improve the humanitarian situations in Darfur by rallying UN-AU, the government, the NGOs and the armed factions.

Defense Minister stresses commitment to ceasefire as beginning of Tripoli talks

(AlRai AlAam) Defense Minister Gen. Abdulrahim Mohamed Hussein emphasized the full commitment to the directives of President's Bashir on the necessity of abiding by cease-fire at the beginning of talks between the government and Darfur rebels, next Oct., in Tripoli.

He expressed hope that the statement of US Deputy Secretary of State threatening to impose sanctions on any of Darfur rebel faction which rejects to join the Tripoli peace talks, should be taken seriously by US and international officials. Hussein said SLM Leader Nur would not want peace and has no logic in rejecting negotiations, adding that Nur did not represent his tribe. He hailed the outcomes of the recent New York's meeting on Darfur describing it as "positive".

Sudan extends detention of opposition leader

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. KHARTOUM) A Sudanese court ruled to extend the detention of opposition leaders an extra two weeks at the request of the prosecution.

Sudanese security services arrested Mubarak al-Fadil, leader of the Umma Reform and Renewal opposition party mid-July over allegations of planning a coup attempt.

The former presidential assistant was arrested along with a number of retired army generals, including retired general Mohamed Ali Hamid, who worked as deputy director of security in the late eighties, as well as former minister of tourism, Abdeljalil al-Basha.

A statement issued Al-Fadil's office condemned the decision saying it was unconstitutional given the fact that no charges were brought any of detainees since their arrest. The diary of Al-Fadil in prison leaked to the press described security officers as desperate to come up with evidence to implicate him in the alleged coup attempt.

Washington worried of CPA slow implementation

(*AlSudani*) The US Department has expressed anxiety over the slow pace of the CPA implementation urging the concerned parties to speed up the refueling of the CPA' spirit by executing its items.

The Department official Spokesperson said the US called on the signatories to the agreement to implement as quickly as possible the agreement items appreciating at the same time the progress attained in the repatriation of 1.5 million refugees from abroad.

He noted that the US was worried to the delay accompanied the CPA since its signing two year and half year ago explaining that these points of delay were represented in the challenges of the redeployment of the troops South and North of the borders of 1956, the presence of military troops in the oil areas, delay of financing the national population census, and failure of implementing Abyie protocol. He said that the full implementation of the CPA was considered as a basis for ending Darfur crisis and guaranteeing for realizing one united and democratic Sudan.

Central Bank shifts money transactions from dollar to Euro to avoid US embargo

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Central Bank has revealed that the bank will shift the money transaction from dollar to other currencies as from the first of next Dec. to avoid any future US embargo.

The Bank Governor Dr. Sabir Mohamed Al-Hassan said that the central bank issued formal address to the Ministry of Finance, Presidency of the Republic and the Cabinet notifying them on the shift of money transference from the dollar to the Euro.

He warned the businessmen union of the risks in dealing with dollar disclosing that the US Administration attempts to impose economic embargo on Sudan. He drew the attention of the private sector to conduct all their money transaction in the importing processes through the Euro. He under-estimated the volume of inter-trade with the US which is amounted to %1 compared with \$55 with the Asian countries, %22 with Arab states and %15 with European countries.

Humanitarian Affairs Ministry inaugurates workshop on voluntary organizations in Sudan

Sudan Tribune Hassabu Abdurrahman of HAC has said that the Sudanese experience in the field of humanitarian affairs started twenty years ago. It said this while inaugurating the workshop on voluntary organization in the Sudan which was organized at the bank association hall yesterday by the Ministry of humanitarian affairs.

He affirmed that the committee has implemented a communiqué and that they paid last April six visits to Darfur, appealing for these working in the humanitarian field to assist the war-stricken displaced.

He added that there was rise from 200 organizations in 2000 to 250 during last year; now about 253 organizations are working humanitarian field in the Sudan. He appealed for the government and foreign organizations to fulfill their pledges in this connection.

FM says satisfied with New American stance on Darfur

(*Sudan Vision*) Sudan Government has described as new ad coinciding with its official position on Darfur issue the American stance calling for sanctions against Darfur rebels refusing to participate in Darfur peace negotiations set for the end of coming October.

The State minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, noted that the American view presented by the US Assistant Secretary of the state along with those of other 20 participants have praised the cooperation of Sudan Government in respect of the peace talks success and the flow of the humanitarian operations.

Karti further pointed out that it was the Sudan commitment to its agreements with UN and AU on Darfur that produced the new American stance.

Deployment of army along with Joint Forces threatens security: Brigadier Marial

(Khartoum Monitor) The Commander of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) in Greater Upper Nile Brigadier Marial Canuog said the existence of the JIU force along side with the Sudan armed forces (SAF) in oil- producing areas is a threat to security.

“We formed JIUs in 2005 and in 2006 we sent a large force to Melut and Amaban in order to take over security in oil producing area. But for unknown reasons the force was denied access to take control of security there”, he added. He stated that the JIUs and the Sudanese army are stationed in one area. “No one is to be held accountable if a problem arises as the responsibility will be shared by the Sudan Army and the JIUS”, he said.

Marial pointed out that the Sudanese army has not withdrawn from the area and the JIUs have a 1800 strong force.

Sudan: United States urges quick implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

(US Department of State – 21 Sept. Sean McCormack) Two years after the September 20, 2005 formation of Sudan's Government of National Unity, the United States calls on all parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to implement as quickly as possible all elements of the accord that ended 21-years of civil war between the North and the South.

Despite impressive progress, including the return of about 1.2 million displaced people/refugees in Southern Sudan and the creation of many commissions mandated by the Agreement, the U.S. is concerned about the slow pace of the Agreement's implementation.

Challenges facing the Agreement include: the failure of the two sides to redeploy armed forces on schedule, the continued presence of troops in the country's oil areas, delays in funding and administering the national census in advance of the general elections, and failure to implement the protocol on the Abyei region.

Full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is central to ending the conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur, and for ensuring a peaceful, democratic, unified Sudan for the future.

GoSS

Southern Sudan Defense Forces declares turning into a political party

(Sudan Tribune) The Southern Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF) has declared its transformation into a political entity under the name Southern Sudan Democratic Front.

The declaration of the new party came during the press conference held at the Sudanese center for press services. The deputy general commander of SSDF, pointed

out that time had come to express political vision and that we would not return to war because we are Sudanese, and that we in SSDF have laid down arms to join political action and support peace.

South Sudan, UN to cooperate on return of refugees from Egypt

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. CAIRO) UN refugees body and Government of South Sudan (GoSS) mission in Egypt have agreed to cooperate over the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees in the country.

In a meeting held on 20 September in the premises of GoSS mission in Cairo, Saad Al Attar, UNHCR Regional Representative and Parmena Makuet, Head of GoSS Mission in Cairo agreed to form a joint committee to oversee the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees in Egypt.

During the meeting Parmena Makuet pointed out that Sudanese refugees are facing a lot of problems and that his office is receiving hundreds of them on daily bases. For instance there are 1000 people registered and ready to return tomorrow but there are no means, he added.

He also suggested that there should be cooperation between Egypt Liaison Office and UNHCR to organize the voluntary repatriation program to avert those who are messing around with refugees interests.

Salva Kiir says determined to lead south Sudan to self determination

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. JUBA) Sudan's First vice President and Southern Sudan president, Salva Kiir Mayadrit has criticized anti-peace elements that want to undermine the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He further said he is still alive and strong to lead south Sudan to self-determination.

While referring to the widely spread rumors of September 16th 2007 that president Kiir died in a plane crash on Sunday afternoon, and the second rumors that Kiir was assassinated by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers, President Kiir said that the rumors were nothing but political propaganda by confused southern Sudanese together with selfish individuals northerners who nourishes assumption to once more ruler the people of southern Sudan because they do not wants to see southern Sudanese to live in a prosperous peaceful and developed environment suiting the new dotcom generations.

South Sudan militia disbands, creates political front

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. KHARTOUM) South Sudan Defence Force (SSDF), which is a pro National Congress Party militias, has decided today formally to disband and change into political party named Democratic Front for South Sudan (DFSS)

In a press conference held in Khartoum on Sunday, the leadership of the newly formed front said the party has emerged to answer hope and aspirations of the southerners and go ahead with peace and development.

The official SUNA said that Prof David Richard is expected to lead the new party. Richard pledged to work on bettering development in the south. "The party is a forum for all the southerners," said Gabriel Deng, deputy commander of the dissolved SSDF. He pointed out that they would work for boosting the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The CPA demands that the various militia groups in the country disband or join either the Sudan Armed FORCES or the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The mainstream of the SSDF led by Paulino Matip disbanded and joined the ranks of the SPLA on 9 January 2006.

South Sudan president urges to stop attacks against foreigners

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. JUBA) The President of the GoSS, Salva Kiir, today, appealed to southern Sudanese to refrain from taking revenge on nationals of neighboring countries who have supported SPLM/A during their difficult time of liberation struggle for justice, equality peace and freedom.

"Do not take revenge on any of our neighboring friends who are here to assist us in development expertise in various fields of human resource development including economic boosting. Even if some might have mistreated you during your refuge time, I urge you to forgive them as Christians and accept them in your mist because their governments have assisted us in realizing the CPA." Kiir said during today's Sunday service greetings of St. Teresa Cathedral, Kator congregations in Juba.

However, president Kiir disputed allegation that 20 Uganda citizens were killed in southern Sudan in the course of two years. His remarks came at a time when a Ugandan business community leader was two weeks ago allegedly killed by a Sudanese at Yei Custom and the police are still investigating the alleged murder case.

Darfur

Russia sends military observers to Darfur

(*AlSahafa*) Russia has declared it will send military observers to take part in the UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur. The Russian Ambassador to UN said that his country was determined to participate in the task of the joint peace force which was carried out by the UN and the AU. He called for the importance of conducting dialogue with the government on the basis of respect to Sudan's unity and sovereignty.

China donates 1 million Yuan to Darfur

(*Alwan*) A Chinese convoy loading with an estimated 10 million Chinese Yuan as a donation to Darfur population in the form of accommodation materials, health equipment and agricultural machinery leaves today for the war-ravaged region.

Minister of Energy and Mining Dr. Awad Al-Gaz, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Kosta Manibi and the Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Monday bids farewell to the aid which constitutes part of 80 million Yuan allocated by China to aid Darfur.

Egypt ends 2,100 soldiers to Darfur

(*Alwan*) Egypt has decided to send 2,100 troops to the UN-AU peacekeeping forces in Darfur in addition to the military observers.

Egyptian Ambassador to UN Magid Abdulfatah told (*Al-Ahram*) that Egypt's contribution to this peace keeping force assures President's Mubarak's concern with the stability in Darfur. He added that Egypt would take part in the operations command of these troops expecting that the UN would select an appropriate number of the Egyptian troops to be part of the commanding of the operations.

Leaders of SLM Nur's participate in Tripoli talks

(*AlSudani*) The vice-president of the Government of South Sudan [GOSS], Dr Riek Machar, has revealed that a number of leaders in the [rebel Sudan Liberation Movement] faction, led by Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur, have agreed to participate in the Tripoli peace negotiations due to take place on 27 October.

Following his arrival in Juba airport after an official visit to South Africa and Europe, Machar said that the GOSS had invited all the armed factions in Darfur, including Nur's, to come to Juba to discuss among themselves and reach an agreement on the directives of the Arusha meeting.

Machar pointed out that all of the factions had agreed to come [to Juba] except Nur. "I want to make it clear that a good number of members of Nur's faction wish to join the peace process and the consultations in Juba," Machar said adding "we therefore hope that the office in charge of the Darfur dossier succeeds in inviting the movements to Juba."

Darfur rebel leader slams US's Negroponte threat of sanctions

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. PARIS) The leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Abdelwahid al-Nur, slammed threats proffered by US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte against rebel groups refusing to participate in the forthcoming peace talks scheduled next month in Libya.

US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte said after the last Friday high level meeting on Darfur that those rebel groups which would refuse to participate in the peace talks would face "sanctions." According to the US official "If an important rebel group chooses not to attend the talks "that should not be a cost-free choice," he said.

Abdelwahid in a statement to Sudan Tribune wondered how an official from US Administration speaks about sanction against people who are fighting the oppressor to defend their rights and freedom. Al-Nur said such sanctions are directed against

people who have nothing to loose and they are subjected since four years to the killing and the rape in daily basis.

The rebel leader says he doesn't trust Sudanese government which known for violating signed agreements. He says security in Darfur must be established to create conducive environment before talks.

Darfur rebel commander urges SLM leader to join talks

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. KHARTOUM) A rebel commander in the troubled western Sudanese region of Darfur has called on an influential exiled leader to join peace talks with the government in Libya next month.

Abdelkarim Jarelnabi, who represents the Group of 19 (G19), which split from the SLM in 2006, urged Abdelwahid al-Nur who founded the SLM to attend the talks which are due to open in Tripoli on October 27.

"Negotiations and the political process are the best choice," Jarelnabi told AFP by telephone from his base in North Darfur state late Saturday. Jarelnabi told AFP that Nur had lost touch with the suffering of the population while in exile and lacked a complete picture of the situation on the ground.

Israel to absorb 498 Sudanese refugees from Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 23 Sept. JERUSALEM) The Israeli government agreed on Sunday to grant residency to some 500 Darfur refugees after months of public debate, but said it would expel all other Africans who had entered illegally from Egypt.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's cabinet appointed a ministerial committee that is expected to grant legal residency to 498 refugees from Darfur, who have illegally crossed into the Jewish state through its nearly 200-kilometer (120-mile) desert border with Egypt, a senior government official said.

It was not immediately clear what exact legal status the Darfur refugees would be granted. A committee headed by former police chief Yaakov Ganot will examine the issue in the coming weeks. Israeli authorities have been grappling, in recent years, with a steady flow of refugees from Darfur, African, and Asian countries, who cross from Egypt.

Lt.Gen. critically injured in renewed clashes in darfur

(*The Citizen*) a Lieutenant General was injured in Darfur when forces in different Sudan military uniforms attacked Suloo loclaity in West Darfur, signalling renewed insecurity. In Nertiti, families were attacked while breacking the fast, police says. During the same night, three people were killed in a separate incident. Yesterday, police officer Haidar hassan from Zalingai told Sudan Vision that the attack ocurre between five and six o'clock early morning. The attack left some dead, including administrartive officer Osman Abakar Abdalla. He said several police personel were severly injured, and Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Mohamed Abdallah is in critical condition.