



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations*

United Nations and Ministry of Social Welfare issue directives to curb spread of HIV/AIDS

(*Rai AlShaab* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) A workshop on sensitization and prevention of HIV/AIDS organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare and in collaboration with the UNFPA has recommended that a protocol be drafted between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare to curb the spread of AIDS.

The workshop also recommended that society and the press work to muster support for the draft.

** Also see correction below of a story in AlSahafa about a visit from SRSR Pronk to the family of the murdered newspaper editor.*

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

National Congress Party threatens to shelf CPA

(*AllIntibaha* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) The National Congress Party has threatened to shelf the CPA should there occur an armed confrontation between the government and the international community against the background of an SPLM support for a transition of AMIS to a United Nations operation.

In its issue yesterday, London-based *AlZaman* newspaper reported an interview with deputy head of the National Congress Party and head of its media department, Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, in which Mr. Omar said that what is important for them is that the SPLM expressed rejection to the transition before parliament and the Council of Ministers. That, he said, is what they see as the official position of the SPLM. He said the SPLM may have been subjected to pressures from outside to support a transition.

Asked whether the SPLM support for a transition will affect the CPA, he said that it will not affect the CPA if it is based on a political and theoretic platform because everyone has the right to freedom of expression. But, he adds, should there be an armed confrontation with the international forces and the SPLM backs that, then the National Congress Party will have to shelf the CPA.

Minister of Foreign Affairs meets Annan in New York

(*AllIntibaha* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) Foreign Minister Lam Akol held talks in New York with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday. Darfur and the implementation of the CPA featured prominently in these talks.

The foreign minister is expected back in Khartoum later today.

UN secures first pledges for Darfur force

(*AFP/ST* – 25th Sept. **UN**) The United Nations secured its first pledges for a proposed major UN peacekeeping force for Darfur, officials said.

But about 50 countries that attended a meeting of potential contributors at the UN headquarters were also warned of the many problems that could face any force, including attacks by rebels opposed to a Darfur peace agreement and by Al-Qaeda.

Sudan has strongly objected to the United Nations taking over from an African Union force currently in the western Sudanese region but Jean-Marie Guehenno, the UN under secretary general for peacekeeping operations, said one European country and some developing countries, which he did not name, had offered several battalions for any UN force.

Other UN officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Norway, Nigeria, Tanzania and Bangladesh were the first countries to offer troops. Nigeria and Tanzania already have troops in the AU force but they would increase their contingent.

Though there is no firm agreement on a force, Guehenno said the meeting was held because "we do have interest in the mission and we want to keep up that interest."

But African Union head, Alpha Oumar Konaré told Caracas-based television, Telesure, during a visit to Venezuela that, "No soldier should go to Sudan without the permission of the Sudanese government because it's not about making war with the Sudanese people but helping them", reports the *AP*.

Reuters meanwhile reports that the African Union will add 4,000 more troops to its extended Darfur peacekeeping mission bringing the number of its police and soldiers in Darfur to 11,000.

"The Peace and Security Council of the AU ... has endorsed the new concept of operation, extending the duration of stay of the African Mission in Sudan up to December 31, 2006, and to boost the troop level by six battalions," said Hassan Ba, spokesman for the AU in Addis Ababa.

The AU said the soldiers would come from countries already contributing troops in Darfur — Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.

President Bashir also said last Sunday at a press conference in Khartoum that Sudan will deploy new integrated forces in Darfur to work alongside African Union peacekeepers in providing security in the region, President Omar al-Bashir said late Sunday.

The integrated units of "the army, police and security forces will be responsible for keeping peace and stability in Darfur region," said Bashir.

These units will operate in the presence of the African Union forces to which he said his government "will not accept any substitute," reiterating his opposition to a proposed transition to a UN force.

Eritrea denies Sudan "baseless" accusations on Darfur rebels

(*SudanTribune.com* – 25th Sept. Asmara) Eritrea has denied vigorously Sudanese president accusations of backing Darfur rebels.

A press statement issued by the Eritrean Foreign Ministry said Asmara is "expressing its grievances over President Omer Bashir's baseless and unproductive remarks" on Eritrean interference in the Darfur crisis.

Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir, had asked Eritrea last Sunday to expel Darfur rebel National Redemption Front (NRF) from its territory. He added, "we reject any role by Eritrea in the Darfur issue" stressing that Sudan is committed to maintain its good ties with Eritrea based on good neighbourhood.

These accusations "come at a time when the government of Eritrea is working ceaselessly towards the finding of a comprehensive peaceful political solution to the Sudan" the statement said.

Sudan accepts Egypt's mediation with Darfur rebels

(*SudanTribune.com* – 26th Sept. **Cairo**) Sudan has accepted an Egyptian proposal to convene a meeting for Darfur rebels groups opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement to discuss their demands.

President Hosni Mubarak made the proposal to al-Bashir when the latter made a stopover in Cairo on his way back to Sudan after attending the 61st UN General Assembly session in New York on Thursday 21 September.

CPA

SPLA says militias aligned to the SAF will not be reintegrated into the SPLA

(*AlAyaam* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) The SPLA has refused to reintegrate to its ranks those militia groups aligned to the SAF.

The joint committee on the other armed groups has meanwhile formed two sub-committees to address the issue of reintegration of the over 39,000 remaining combatants of different militia groups.

Paul Ajang of the SPLA who is also a member of the OAGs committee said that the committee of the SPLA that is handling the issue has registered 44,000 combatants from Paulino Matib's and other militias. 14,000 of these have been reintegrated into the SPLA while the others will gradually be absorbed into the police, prisons and civil service and the elderly and handicapped will be demobilised.

He said that the SAF has on the other hand registered 25,000, 16,000 of whom have been reintegrated into the SAF and the remaining 19,000 will be absorbed into the police and the other regular forces.

He said that the CPA gives the armed groups the right to chose which of the two forces to join but then no militia that chose to join the SAF could join the SPLA.

GoNU

Opposition fears NCP domination in Torit

(*The Citizen* - 26th Sept. **Khrt**) President Bashir has accepted the mission of the committee headed by retired Field Marshal AbdulRahman Suwar-el-Dahab established with the aim of bridging the gap between the National Congress Party and the opposition.

Committee spokesman, Osman Abdullah, told the press that the committee has been recognized and mandated to carry out dialogue with the Darfur armed groups opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement and will next week tour the IDP camps in Darfur to have talks with the residents.

Three opposition parties - Umma, the Popular Congress and the Communist - affirmed after their meeting at the Umma Party headquarters in Omdurman that they all agree to the need for a national consensus but added that they would not deal with the Suwar-el-Dahab committee which is solely composed of National Congress Party members.

Cd'A at the US embassy in Khartoum says New York did not restrict movement of Sudanese delegation

(*AlSudani* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) In response to the President's decision to restrict movement of the US nationals in Sudan to within a 25 km radius in reciprocation to the way they were treated in the US, Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Khartoum says New York did not intentionally restrict the movements of the Sudanese delegation while it was there.

Meanwhile the USA special envoy in Sudan Andrew Natsius will arrive in Khartoum during the second week of next month, the Council of Minister announced yesterday.

The US envoy to Darfur revealed that the USA has prepared two alternative plans to deal with the Darfur crises in case it fails to convince the Government of Sudan to accept international forces in Darfur but he didn't give details about the two plans.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

Fallata tribesmen file complaint against SPLM

(*Khartoum Monitor* - 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) The Fallata tribesfolk who fled from western Sudan to the South seeking security and grazing land have allegedly been looted by the SPLA soldiers.

The Fallata chief, Mr Issa, asserted that the SPLA attacked his tribesmen in two different incidents while on their way to Wau. They say they reported these incidents to the police and the authorities there but received no response. He said they are referring this matter to the UN Office in Wau to investigate.

Darfur/DPA

Abdul Wahid calls for dialogue

(*AlAdhwa* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) The SLM rebel faction stated that government should acknowledge failure of the DPA as an only way to avert an international intervention in Darfur.

He added that making true dialogue with the DPA holdout groups would preserve the historical rights of the region with regards power and wealth sharing and put an end to the problem of IDPs in the region.

Future Forces Movement calls for Darfur secession

(*Rai AlShaab* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) A movement that goes by the name Future Forces Movement has called for the separation of the Darfur region from Sudan.

The establishment of the Democratic State of West Sudan has become an essential issue for all governments failed to solve the crises, the movement said in a release yesterday.

Commentaries

Sudan Vision Editorial: Sudan Vision daily paper published in its editorial for the 26th of September 2006 an article titled Pronk: What is your mandate?

The editorial mainly concentrates on what real mandate SRSG Jan Pronk has in helping the Sudanese people to end the war and bring peace.

The editorial says that the SRSG had said following the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement that not a comma be changed from the Darfur Peace Agreement but then the activities he had since then been involved in only show that his only objective is to act against achieving peace.

The editorial wonders what really Mr. Pronk's mandate in Sudan is and whether the government is aware of it.

Correction:

Noted in the MMR of 24th September is the below story from AlSahafa. The correction was issued in the same paper on the 23rd but was missed out in the MMR.

On the murder of the editor: (*AlSahafa – 22nd September*) reports that sources say the SRSG had visited the house of the murdered editor to give his condolences and had offered United Nations assistance in the investigation [*the paper described it as a Hariri-style investigation*] but then the family of the deceased turned down the offer saying they were confident Sudanese authorities will bring the culprits to justice.

The SRSG said the murder was foreign to Sudanese tradition and hints of some foreign hands and noted that AlQaeda had claimed responsibility.

Mr. Pronk also expressed criticism for death threats that some journalists received and said that this affects the freedom of expression. He also noted that the government resumed censorship of the press following the murder and later lifted this measure.

Meanwhile an informed source in the Khartoum police has expressed astonishment over the SRSG's offer for assistance and pointed out that the issue is totally beyond the mandate of UNMIS.

Rejoinder: (*AlSahafa – 23rd September*): *AlSahafa* wishes to inform its readers that UNMIS sent a Letter of Condolence to the family of the late editor of the *AlWifaq* newspaper, Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed.

The paper wishes to note that contrary to a report on its pages yesterday, SRSG Jan Pronk did not visit the family of the late editor nor did the mission offer its assistance in investigating the case.

The newspaper apologises to Mr. Pronk and the UNMIS for this unintentional mistake.