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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

United Nations warns of looming humanitarian crisis in Darfur*

(*AlSahafa* – 27th Sept. **Khrt.**) In a statement to the Associated Press, DSRSG Manuel Aranda da Silva said that the situation in Darfur is at its worst since the crisis broke out in August 2003 and a number of international relief agencies have left the area due to the difficulties they face. He blamed rebel groups for the attacks on aid workers that left 11 killed, all of them Sudanese, in the last three months.

He said that the fact the rebels are resorting of late to the hijacking of vehicles is a major concern for relief. The United Nations, he said, is trying to convince rebel commanders to return these vehicles.

He said that the United Nations turned to minimising its presence on the ground by using helicopters and smaller units to provide emergency assistance to remote areas.

The DSRSG also expressed concern over the indiscriminate bombing of villages suspected of harbouring rebels and pointed out that this will result in civilian casualties.

He said that relief workers are not able to reach tens of thousands of IDPS due to SAF activity and those of tens of rebel groups.

AlKhartoum also reports that Mr. da Silva told *AlJazeera* that humanitarian workers are finding difficulties in getting permits to travel to enter some areas, especially those where rebel groups have split.

In its report that comes under the heading, *United Nations officials give contradicting statements on the situation in Darfur*, *AlKhartoum* further reports that Deputy Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy told *AlJazeera* that the security situation has been calm in the states of Darfur during the last two weeks. He is reported to have said that government and rebel forces have heeded SRSG Pronk's requests for a cessation of hostilities during Ramadhan.

On difficulties in access to IDP camps, Elkoussy underlined the need for security to guarantee the continuation and safety of the IDP camps and pointed out that responsibility to protect humanitarian workers and civilians lies on all parties, including the African Union. The Deputy spokesperson also said that the African Union will soon receive more support to carry out its operations in Darfur.

Elkoussy said that what is needed to shore up the Darfur Peace Agreement is commitment to the provisions of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the ceasefire agreement and the launch of the Darfur-Darfur dialogue and tribal reconciliations.

** This story and the follow-up reactions below were reported in a number of major newspapers. The full text of the AP story is attached as a separate supplement to this MMR.*

Reactions to the statements by DSRSG da Silva

SAF REBUFFS:

(*AlAyaam*) In response to DSRSG da Silva's statements on the situation in Darfur, SAF spokesperson Osman Mohamed AlAgbash said he does not think that SAF activities in the Darfur region have affected humanitarian operations. He said that all these statements of a deterioration in the situation in Darfur is only aimed at pressuring the Sudan government into accepting a transition.

The spokesperson pointed out that the SAF is carrying out its role in protecting the civilian population and is even coordinating with the African Union to facilitate the work of the international relief agencies operating in Darfur.

GOVERNMENT SAYS PRONK AND AIDES SHOULD CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THEIR MANDATE

(*AlHayat* 27th Sept. **Khrt.**) The Commissioner-General for the Humanitarian Aid Commission has rebuffed recent statements by the DSRSG of the United Nations, Manuel Aranda da Silva, in which he said that Sudan's total contribution would not meet the humanitarian needs of the people of Darfur for more than 15 days.

Hassabu Mohamed AbdelRahman pointed out that the government provided 50% of Darfur's humanitarian needs for a period of three months at the request of the United Nations itself.

He called upon the United Nations to be just and transparent and to confine itself to the mandate given the mission and not to transcend the mandate and stop sending out negative signals that only serve the interests of the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups.

He went on to say that Pronk, da Silva "and company" should recognise the fact that they are United Nations officials for whom the Sudan also pays a considerable amount of their salaries. They should respect the countries sovereignty and leadership, he said.

The commissioner-general also criticised the United Nations reports of a deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and pointed out that the fact that there are over 19,000 foreign officials, 13,000 nationals and more than 980 vehicles in Darfur only proves the reports of insecurity as false.

Pakistani blue helmet dies in southern Blue Nile

Alwan reports the death of a Pakistani soldier of the United Nations military in southern Blue Nile.

The paper said that the soldier died mysteriously while on physical training at the mission's military camps in Damazeen. The doctors sighted a drop in blood pressure as the cause of death.

Sudanese authorities carried out the necessary arrangements and handed the body to UNMIS.

Secretary-General of the Sudan Lawyers' Union calls for Jan Pronk's expulsion

The Citizen newspaper carries the story of a statement by the Secretary-General of the Sudan Lawyers' Union issued yesterday in which he called upon the government to expel SRSR Pronk for transcending his mandate which is only to monitor the implementation of the CPA.

Mr. Fathi Khalil cites Pronk's meetings with the political parties and offering condolences to the family of the beheaded editor of the Sudanese paper, *AlWifaq*, as examples of such interference in issues that do not concern the SRSG.

The Secretary-General of the Lawyers' Union also accuses SRSG Pronk of sending false information to the United Nations on rapes and killings in Darfur. He said that such false allegations are only an attempt to seek a foothold for a United Nations invasion of Sudan.

Rejoinder: The same paper carries a rejoinder to the above from the Deputy Spokesperson of the UNMIS in which he expressed sorrow for such statements, particularly as they are coming from the leadership of the Sudan Lawyers' Union. He described these statements as "irresponsible".

Deputy Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy pointed out that SRSG Pronk is in Sudan upon request from the government and is here for the welfare and the interests of the people of Sudan.

"He added that the body that has authority over Pronk's appointment to Sudan is the United Nations", concludes *The Citizen* quoting Mr. Elkoussy.

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

U.N. tells Sudan it sending military help to Darfur

(*Reuters/ST* – 26th Sept. UN) The United Nations told Sudan on Tuesday it was sending military experts to Darfur to help the under-equipped African Union force, a move that needs Khartoum's support, officials said.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced on Friday that the world body would move 105 personnel, mainly military experts, to Darfur in the next few weeks to manage communications and help with transport in anticipation of an eventual transition to a U.N. force.

But the package of assistance does not have Sudan's permission yet, a senior U.N. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

AlRai AlAam local daily quotes United Nations Secretary-General Spokesperson Stephen Dujarric as saying that a United Nations deployment of forces to Darfur will depend on the acceptance of the Sudan government.

He says Secretary-General Annan and African Union Commissioner Konaré have sent a joint letter to President Bashir to formally inform him of the outcome of the joint United Nations, African Union meeting in which the two agreed on a plan to support the African Union forces in Darfur.

In answer to questions from the press at the daily press briefing in New York yesterday, Stephen Dujarric said that participants at the meeting that was called for by USG Guehenno included states that are currently contributing troops to the AMIS and potential TCCs should a transition take effect, report most major local newspapers in Khartoum.

Dujarric also said that some states have expressed fears of attacks on their forces by Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups or AlQaeda.

AlAyaam says pressures are mounting on the Sudan government to accept an AMIS-United Nations transition and points out that US representative to the Security Council, Ambassador John Bolton, has revealed that they intend to present a draft resolution before the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Sudan for a further one year.

He said the Security Council may subject this draft to the vote next Friday.

Sudan is willing to accept UN advisers for Darfur - official

(*AP/ST* – 26th Sept. **Khrt.**) The Sudanese government's top official on Darfur, Majzoub al-Khalifa, suggested that Khartoum was willing to accept the deployment of U.N. military advisers to reinforce the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

"There is a third way ... why not let the U.N. place its men, command expertise and materiel at the service of the AU mission," Khalifa said in an interview with AP.

The United Nations and Sudan are discussing the deployment of U.N. military advisers to reinforce the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, in a possible compromise in their standoff over the war-torn region, officials from both sides said Tuesday.

Sudan has fiercely opposed deploying a beefed-up U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, despite resolutions from the Security Council, and has called instead for the African force already there to be strengthened.

But Baha Elkoussy, a U.N. spokesman in Sudan, said the two sides were negotiating over sending U.N. advisers "to facilitate the deployment of the AU."

Elkoussi said U.N. personnel were ready to be sent to Darfur in the coming weeks "as soon as there is a solid agreement with the (Sudanese) government."

"There are ongoing discussions to provide the AU force with support, pending a future decision from the U.N. Security Council," he told The Associated Press.

Pronk suggests United Nations support for African Union

The Citizen, quoting *AlJazeera Magazine*, describes the five point short-term measures for Darfur cited by SRSG Pronk in a recent press briefing as a near-fatal blow to the United Nations Security Council's "confrontational approach".

The paper says that SRSG Pronk had proposed at the press conference the use of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter to support the African Union deployment in Darfur and expressed confidence that such an arrangement would be acceptable to the Sudan government.

He pointed out however that the caveat remains that the force must be more effective than it is now.

The paper goes on to outline SRSG Pronk's five point program to "get the Darfur Peace Agreement into intensive care before it dies" as the following: 1- get everyone on board; 2- a truce; 3- rejuvenate the CFC; 4- improve the Darfur Peace Agreement and, 5- get off the collision course.

OIC backs Sudan position on international forces

(*AlSahafa*) The Organisation of Islamic Conference has issued a statement support for the Sudan's position against an international force for Darfur.

The statement was issued in New York last Monday on the fringes of the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

EU to Give EUR55 million to African Union

The *AP* quotes officials in Addis Ababa as saying that the European Commission is to provide EUR55 million in aid to the African Union.

In a landmark visit to the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso will sign over the funds to bolster the 53-nation organization, said Tim Clarke, the Commission's ambassador to Ethiopia.

The Commission's funds cannot be used for peacekeeping, but can be used to meet running costs of the African bloc.

GoNU

Yassir Arman of the SPLM condemns security police; SPLM accuses the police of violating the Interim Constitution

Most major dailies report that the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, addressed a workshop held yesterday organized by Parliament's Security and Defence Committee in collaboration with the UNMIS's Rule of Law Unit to discuss the issue of parliamentary monitoring of the defence and security apparatus.

The Citizen and *AlSahafa* dailies report that Yassir Arman who heads the SPLM Parliamentary bloc advocated for strong security units providing security to citizens according to international standards. He observed that the police in Sudan have no respect for the constitution. He also opposed the unnecessary arming of the police with heavy weapons and criticised the existence of political security police, which, he said had no place in building of a democracy. He called on his colleagues to enact laws that protect the rights of citizens.

Meanwhile *AlRai AlAam*, also reporting the workshop, said that the state minister of the Interior Alieu Yang says the police are still operating on a "war mentality" and carries out a role akin to the Armed Forces.

A member of the State's Assembly attributed security violations to the exceptional conditions the country is passing through particularly regarding international interference in the county.

The National Assembly vowed to activate its role on monitoring the conduct of the security bodies while using their authorities to face civilians.

Umma leader Sadiq el-Mahdi requests for a closed meeting with President Bashir

Umma leader Sadiq el Mahdi has requested for a closed meeting with President el Bashir to discuss issues pertaining to the current situation the country, particularly Darfur, and how to face the international intervention in Darfur.

Sources close to el-Mahdi say they have noticed a shift in his position on the international forces.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

GoSS Speaker says southern judiciary can endorse southern state constitutions

(*The Citizen*) Speaker of the GoSS legislature, James Wani Iga, said yesterday that he sees no reason why the constitutions of southern Sudanese states have to be endorsed by the Federal Minister of Justice instead of the GoSS judiciary.

These comments come in the wake of a refusal by federal justice minister Ali el-Mardi to endorse the constitutions of 10 southern Sudanese states.

The statements came during the inauguration of the second GoSS parliament where one MP also took the opportunity to commend the United Nations in building the \$1,048 000 Central Equatoria Legislative Assembly.

ICC says LRA leaders must be arrested

(*Reuters/ST* – 27th Sept. **The Hague**) The International Criminal Court's (ICC) chief prosecutor said on Tuesday leaders of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army must be arrested to stop them from committing more crimes, despite calls for an amnesty to allow for peace talks.

Last week, deputy LRA leader Vincent Otti said lifting the ICC war crimes indictments against himself and other top LRA leaders was a pre-condition to a full peace deal but ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said war crimes could not go unpunished.

"If we do not execute the arrest warrants, the crimes can start again," Moreno said at a public hearing with non-governmental organizations.

The NGOs backed the ICC's efforts to arrest and prosecute those responsible for war crimes.

Population Census Committee in the South Sudan

(*The Citizen* - 27th Sept. **Khrt**) Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice President of the Republic and President of Government of the South Sudan has issued a decree stipulating the formation of a Higher Council for Population Census in Southern Sudan.

The committee will be presided over by GoSS Minister for cabinet affairs, Dr. Justin Yac, and Dr. Luke, Minister of presidential Affairs as Deputy and will have in addition ten other members

Darfur/DPA

President Bashir outlines powers of the Darfur Interim Authority

(*AlRai AlAam*) President Bashir is expected to issue in the next few hours a decree forming the Darfur Interim Authority.

The President issued yesterday three decrees specifying the functions of the Darfur Interim Authority and sources expect the regional government of Darfur to be unveiled in the next few hours.

SAF and co-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement agree on reintegration

(*AlSahafa*) The SAF and the co-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement have agreed that the protocol on security arrangements stipulated in the Darfur Peace Agreement be implemented in four stages.

SAF spokesperson, Osman AlAghbash, revealed that the SAF held talks with representatives of these movements yesterday and decided that the four phases will also include the reintegration of 5,000 combatants from these groups into the regular forces while 3,000 more will be reintegrated through the DDR program into the civil service.

He said that the participants also underlined the need to observe deadlines.

Commentaries

Skinning the CPA alive with a razor blade

Under this title the Khartoum Monitor writes its editorial of 27th September 2006.

The editorial says that the NCP has started to skin the CPA alive and refers to the story of the rejection by the Federal Minister of Justice to endorse the constitutions of ten southern Sudanese states and the subsequent comments by a high rank GoSS official who said that they refuse all three conditions set by the Ministry of Justice and that the issue has been brought to a deadlock.

The editorial takes the reader through a number of landmarks from the debate over who should take charge of the Ministry of Energy and Mining, then the rejection of the report by the ABC report, the slow pace of implementation of the CPA, the north-south boundaries, the slow pace in the implementation of the commissions stipulated in the CPA, the lack of transparency on oil revenue and refusal of an SPLM monitoring of oil production in the fields.

The National Congress Party, it argues, has also been dragging its feet in replacing the old laws with laws compatible to the CPA and has failed to meet the deadlines set by the CPA and curtailed the freedom of the press in broad daylight.

The editorial concluded by this comment Alas! Let the CPA speak .The NCP has started to skin the CPA alive