



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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Special Media Monitoring Report
Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's visit to Sudan
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(By Public Information Office)

(All local press, News Agencies) — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrived in South Sudan on Tuesday to bolster the slow-paced implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between SPLM and the government Jan. 2005.

Although Moon made his first to South Sudan, his main concern is to jump-start the peace process in the western Darfur region following the approval of the government to UN SC Resolution for the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid forces.

On arrival in Juba, Ban held talks First Vice President Salva Kiir warning that its two-year Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) remains "fragile" and crucial to the whole country.

A UN official traveling with Ban described south Sudan as "a fragile state" where the Ki Moon is "very concerned about the situation."

"The fear of the disintegration of Sudan is very real among the government of Sudan," the official said, asking not to be named.

The International Crisis Group said in July that "the CPA holds the seeds for transforming the oppressive governmental system that is at the root of all Sudan's conflicts into a more open, transparent, inclusive and democratic one."

The Crisis Group accused the ruling National Congress Party of President Omar al-Beshir of deliberately obstructing implementation of the CPA, in particular oil revenue sharing and the demarcation of the north-south border.

Ban had dinner with Beshir on Monday during which he briefed the Sudanese leader on efforts to push forward Darfur peace talks as well as telling him that "more efforts should be done to accelerate implementation" of the CPA.

Power and wealth-sharing elements of the CPA have also been seen as a potential blueprint for a Darfur peace deal, where the hybrid UNAMID forces — the world's largest peacekeeping operation — is to begin deploying.

Ban told journalists that over dinner Monday he had obtained Beshir's "commitment and readiness" to facilitate the deployment of UNAMID in Darfur, where he said that "time is of the essence" as fighting continues.

"We are working very hard to finalize a detailed arrangement for peace negotiation talks as soon as possible," Ban said after several Darfur rebel groups met in Tanzania last month to unify their stance ahead of final peace negotiations.

In a potential boost to peace efforts, Ban said that Beshir had promised to allow key Darfur rebel Suleiman Jamous to leave Sudan and seek medical attention after which the veteran could take up a role as mediator.

Ban told journalists in Khartoum, before making a brief visit to Juba in the south, that Beshir had ordered the "immediate release" of Suleiman Jamous, a veteran rebel who has been confined to a hospital near Darfur for over a year.

"UN officials here will make the necessary arrangements to bring him to Kenya," Ban said after talks with Beshir on Monday night during his first visit here as UN chief.

Jamous, a former humanitarian coordinator for the Sudan Liberation Army who is seen as a potential mediator at peace talks had been confined to hospital despite pleas for his release by mediators, rebels and rights activists.

The United Nations in Sudan said already in August that Khartoum had agreed to let the 62-year-old Jamous travel abroad, probably to Nairobi, for treatment but he has since remained in Kadogli in central Sudan.

Ban said that Beshir had assured him he was committed to a ceasefire in Darfur but that "sometimes when there are assaults on his forces he needs to defend himself."

Ki Moon, was accorded warm welcome by President and members of the GOSS, leaderships of civil society organizations, Christian bishops and Muslim preachers as well as tens of thousands waving citizens, said that the UN and the international community were committed to see that the key aspects of the CPA are implemented.

He added that Sudan has come to the fore front in the world pointing out that the CPA was a corner-stone to bring peace and security in Sudan with the full support of the UN.

Ki Moon noted that he would like to see SAF withdrawal from the South in light of CPA saying that pending constitutional issues in the parliament should be passed as part of creating law-based society.

Reporting from Juba, (*AlSahafa* daily) said that Moon communicated to President AlBashir an invitation to take part in a conference in New York next month, devoted to discuss Darfur issue adding that Bashir promised to delegate Foreign Minister Lam Akol to attend this forum.

Moon noted that Kiir assured him that he would convince SLM' Nour to participate in the peace talks between the government and the Abuja non-signatories scheduled for next Oct.

He stressed that he discussed with Kiir CPA progress maintaining that pending issues of demarcation of the South-North borders, withdrawal of SAF from the South and dispute on the oil rich Abyei area constitute a threat to the comprehensive peace in Sudan.

In the same context, First Vice-President Silva Kiir cited a catalogue of failures of the NCP pertinent to the implementation of the CPA saying that the redeployment of SAF should have been finalized two months ago under the CPA.

Kiir described the NCP as "lacking the will" of withdrawing SAF from South Sudan territory indicating the failure of the NCP to implement the Abyei protocol promising GOSS's commitment to guarantee the CPA from its enemies.

Meanwhile, UN Special Envoy to Sudan Eliason said that it was inevitable to build on the progress made so far and resume peace talks in a bid to bring together the disputed armed factions." If that is not realized, there will be causes which stir anxiety as regards the situation in the IDPs camps as feeling of frustration are currently escalating", he emphasized.

He pinpointed that villages were exposed to raping on the part of non-land owners describing the situation as "time-bomb" and called for political talks which, he affirmed, would mean restoring matters to normality.

Eliason pointed out the lands concerning those fleeing the armed attacks were robbed saying that this issue would bring about new conflicts when the fleeing population returns back to their lands.

He confirmed that the tribal disputes were increasing and would be bloodier than clashes between "Janjaweed and rebel movements".

On his part, former UN Humanitarian Relief Coordinator Eglad said that the visit of Moon to Sudan has displayed the intention of the international community to reach political solution to the crisis in Darfur war-torn region.

He indicated to a unified international pressure on Sudan not from the US and Britain, but from China and other Asian countries, which he did not name arguing that this led to the agreement of UN-AU to form the hybrid forces.

Commenting on Moon's visit AU Envoy to Darfur Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim said that the visit would assist in the progress of the peace process by deploying the peace keeping forces. "The deployment of the forces does not require a long time and depends on the readiness of UN-AU and the availability of the forces needs", he asserted.

In another development, the government announced its acceptance of the Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Qazi as SRSG special envoy to Sudan in replacement of Jan Pronk who was expelled for criticizing the army.

The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, Ambassador Ali Al Sadig, assured that the government welcomes the assignment of Qazi, indicating that the UN has previously proposed Qazi's appointment to the government which agreed to the proposal. UNSG Ban Ki-moon described Qazi, a Muslim Pakistani who is currently UN envoy to Iraq, as having wide and extensive diplomatic experience.

Ki Moon named on Tuesday Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Qazi as his new special representative to Sudan to replace Jan Pronk, who was expelled a year ago after angering Khartoum.

Ban praised his "wide and extensive diplomatic skill" when he made the announcement after arriving in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba as part of a 6-day tour of Sudan, Chad and Libya.

"I want Qazi to contribute to the peace and security of Sudan. I will need your cooperation for that," Ban said, addressing his comments to south Sudan President Salva Kiir.

Diplomats said some in south Sudan were unhappy with Qazi's appointment because of his Muslim faith. South Sudan's population is predominantly Christian and animist, in contrast with the predominantly Muslim north.

Sudan's Ambassador to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim said that UN Ban Ki-Moon, is due to arrive Wednesday in Al-Fasher city, the capital of North Darfur State, as part of his current visit to Sudan.

He will meet in Al-Fasher with the Wali (governor) of North Darfur State, Osman Mohamed Yousif Kibir, and members of the state's government. He is due to be acquainted by North Darfur State's government on the implementation of Darfur peace agreement and the achievements in the security and humanitarian axes, besides the voluntary return of displaced people to their home areas.

He will also be informed on the state's vision on the coming negotiations between the government and the non signatory parties of Darfur peace agreement.

In Al-Fasher city, Ban KI-Moon will meet also with officials of the UN and the African Union missions, in addition to representatives of the civil society and women organizations and the displaced citizens.

He will also visit Al-Salam displaced people camp in Al-Fasher, and will hold a press conference in the city before returning to Khartoum. On Thursday, he is scheduled to meet with the Speaker of the National Assembly, President Senior Assistant and Chairperson of Darfur Transitional Authority and concludes his encounters with President Bashir.

Moon is to wrap up the visit by holding a press conference during which he will read out the final communique.

Opinion/ other articles:

Columnist and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of (*AlSudani* daily) Nur-Aldeen Medani write in his widely-perused column that though he does not attach too much hope on Moon's visit, he commends the concern paid by the UN to jumpstart peace process in Darfur States.

Again, he comments that he appreciates that Moon comes by himself to have a first look to what he considers as a basis for laying down a framework for durable peace in Darfur and his endeavors to have talks with government officials. He says his talks, which, he hopes to be fruitful, are motivated by his keenness to assure the international community's commitment to realize peace in Sudan.

He goes on to stress that he agrees with Moon that military solution is "nonsense" adding that even the hybrid forces are unfeasible. He believes that the crisis should be settled peacefully not only with those who raise arms, but with all political entities in Darfur region, as, he underlines are so much concerned to speed up peace process in the country.

Medani welcomes the visit and hopes it will materialize positively in the peace process not as regards halting of bloodshed, but in paving the way for an atmosphere conducive to development with a view to handling causes of historical economic, political and administrative faults, exacerbated by the central authority.

But, he says the government, the political parties and opposition movements are facing a real challenge to attain the required peace in Darfur in the context of a comprehensive political settlement prior to the democratic transformation, development and justice.

He calls, in conclusion, for displaying more seriousness to the commitment to the signed agreements to achieve legal, political and economic reform, which ensures peace, security and stability in Sudan.

AlSharei AlSiyassi daily quotes the "Islamic News Agency NABA" as saying that Secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon is in Southern Sudan to "endorse the conspiracy against Darfur".

The agency is quoted as saying that the Secretary-general is on a 6-day visit to Sudan under the guise of putting the CPA back on track but is in fact there to lay the grounds for the deployment of thousands of peacekeepers that the Sudan government does not consent to.