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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN/ AU-UN Transition**

#### **US runs into strong resistance at UN over Sudan resolution**

May 12, 2006 (UNITED NATIONS) — The U.S. has run into strong resistance in its bid for a Security Council resolution that would give the U.N. immediate control over peacekeepers in Darfur, diplomats said Friday.

Objections from China, Russia and several African nations have forced the U.S. to strip out much of the most powerful language of the draft, possibly delaying the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in the troubled Sudanese region.

The retreat is a blow to U.S. President George W. Bush, who had announced Monday that he would seek the new resolution and asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to press for it during a U.N. visit Tuesday.

It was part of several new initiatives from Bush to bring an end to the suffering in Darfur, where violence has killed nearly 200,000 people since 2003. Late last week, Darfur's government and rebels signed a peace deal at last.

A new draft of the U.S. resolution circulated late Thursday makes several key concessions. For example, it asks only that a U.N. assessment team inspect the A.U. force "with a view to a follow-on United Nations operation in Darfur."

The draft also asks all parties to the Darfur deal, the U.N. and other organizations "to accelerate transition to a United Nations operation."

Sudan's government has previously refused to allow the assessment team into the country, though officials have suggested the peace deal could ease its concerns.

"The expectation continues that we will have a joint planning team on the ground in Darfur as soon as possible," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "We would expect the government of Sudan to cooperate fully and let this team do its work."

The African Union forces, which number about 7,200, are now low on funds and have largely been ineffective in stopping atrocities and re-establishing security.

According to the U.N. plan, the force would be bolstered and folded into the command of a U.N. peacekeeping force monitoring a separate peace deal between Sudan's largely Muslim north and the Christian and animist south.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said Friday he did not think the new draft was "substantially weaker," though he acknowledged several changes had been required.

"I think some things were removed in an effort to reach a broader consensus within the council about what the text would be," Bolton said. "I think we're very close to bringing it

before the council. I hope it will be unanimous but again, we're prepared to go whether it's unanimous or not."

But several diplomats said objections remained. They portrayed the latest draft more as a U.S. effort to show progress on Darfur than as a text that will move any closer to a U.N.-led mission there. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the draft publicly.

China and Russia, two veto-wielding members of the council, oppose that even the new draft is written under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which could make it legally binding and enforceable by sanctions.

The African Union has asked that the council delay voting on the draft until after Monday, when its Peace and Security Council meets to endorse the Darfur peace deal and discuss the possibility of giving the U.N. authority over the A.U. force.

(ST/AP)

## **Darfur**

### **Six people killed in anti-Abuja Agreement demonstrations in El-Fasher and Kas**

Six people, including one military intelligence staff, have been killed in anti-Abuja Agreement demonstrations organized by the IDPs of the Abu Shok Camp in Al-Fasher and Kas. Three others were injured in the demonstrations. According to the Commissioner of Kas, an IDP child informed the authorities that a military intelligence staff was attacked by the IDPs inside the camp. The IDPs, the Commissioner said, attacked the rescue team which was sent by the authorities using three fire arms and the outcome was the killing of three people and causing injuries to two others. The Deputy Wali of Northern Darfur, Maj. Gen. (rtd) Ismaiel Al-Haj Yusif, issued a statement in which he said that a group of IDPs from Abu Shok camp organized a public demonstration against Abuja Agreement and set fire on cars owned by the AMIS and some NGOs. A public demonstration against the DPA was also organized yesterday in Khartoum, Al-Rai Al-Aam.

### **Dr. Majzoub: Higher Committee on Darfur to meet within 48 hours**

The Higher Committee on Darfur, which is chaired by President Al-Basshir, will hold a meeting during the coming 48 hours in order to discuss implementation of the DPA. The Presidential Adviser, Dr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa, explained that the meeting of the committee, which will be attended by the three Walis of Darfur, will agree on a clear program for the implementation of the Agreement, Al-Rai Al-Aam.

### **Khartoum State Legislative assembly passes State Constitution**

The Khartoum State Legislative Assembly has ratified by consensus, with the full participation of the SPL MPs, the Constitution of the State, Al-Rai Al-Aam.

### **Editorial: International Community and Sudan Conflicts**

The editorial criticizes what it called the security approach adopted by the international community in dealing with Sudan conflicts. This approach, the editorial argued, focuses on discussing the issue of international troops and ignores the root causes of conflicts in Sudan, Al-Ayam.

### **Government accuses PCP and JEM of plotting to abort Abuja Agreement**

Official GoS sources accused the Popular Congress Party (PCP) and the rebel JEM of plotting to abort the recently signed DPA. PCP leaders said this is an indication of government's plans on taking security measures against the Party, Al-Sahafa.

### **NCP Recommends Operation Room for DPA Implementation**

Sudan Vision-- President Al-Bashir called on rebel movements that did not sign the Abuja Peace Agreement to join the peace process, urging all forces to unify ranks and transcend narrow tribal loyalties.

The President, who yesterday addressed the National Congress Party's closing session of NCP Shura Council, described the Abuja Agreement as a great achievement that frustrated all intrigues perpetrated against the Sudan, renewing his Government's readiness to sit with all parties. "The rebellion in Darfur took place at the wrong time" said Al-Bashir, adding that when that rebellion broke out, there were six Darfurians in the Federal Government. The President stressed the necessity of tribal reconciliation and the reference to Darfurian customs and traditions in resolving conflicts. He underlined dialogue with all political parties as an obligation, which NCP should fulfill. The President commended the political practice within NCP which, according to him, has embraced all proactive political forces. Al-Bashir pledged to implement the recommendations submitted by the Shura Council committees, describing them as binding. The NCP Shura Council that wound up its session yesterday recommended the formation of an operation room for the implementation of DPA and the expedition of demobilization and integration of rebel movements' forces. The Council also recommended improving relation with neighbouring countries, particularly Chad and Eritrea, in addition to finalizing Eastern Sudan talks preparations and the establishment of operation rooms in the centre and States to implement the DPA. The Return of displaced to their home areas, launching of a campaign to enlighten people on DPA and issue of the law regulating party formations were also among the recommendations. On the economic level, adoption of millennium development goals and priority to rural development project has been recommended as top priorities.

### **Darfur's main rebel faction says Abuja accord still incomplete**

May 13, 2006 (PARIS) — The Darfur's largest rebel faction, who signed a peace agreement with the Sudanese government, said Abuja accord still incomplete. The group demands that Khartoum responds fully to the reservations presented by its chairman.

The spokesperson of SLM-Mianwi Faction, Esam Eddine Elhaj, told Sudan Tribune that the purpose of current visit of a delegation led by the SLA chief commander, Jema Hagar, to Darfur is to meet military commanders, and not to popularize the Abuja agreement.

In a telephone interview Elhaj said to finalize the agreement we must fix the formulated reservations about the Darfur Peace Agreement. He further said that currently the other SLM

faction led by Abdelwahed is negotiating with the Sudanese government on similar points and we have to wait the outcome of these talks.

Esam said “We wanted the agreement to include a clear mechanism to disarm the Janjaweed militia and define the side that will undertake this job in a clear and frank manner” According to him the United Nation must be involved in the Janjaweed disarmament. The expected UN force to Darfur must supervise and verify the operation.

The agreement stipulates that Janjaweed militia has to be disarmed completely by mid-October, 2006, without further indications. The parties of the deal have to agree on the technical aspects. But it seems that rebel groups do not trust Sudanese government and ask for international participation.

On the power sharing, the rebels say the question of the percentage of their participation in the federal government is not resolved. The same thing could be said for their participation in the administration of the national capital Khartoum. Elhaj further added that this percentage must be defined in accordance with the percentage of Darfur population.

The spokesperson also raised the question of compensation. He said Sudanese government must compensate fairly the Darfur population, victims of the three years war. “Those people have lost anything. Now they are surviving thank to international aid”, he explained.

The signed agreement speaks about a commission to provide compensation to victims of the conflict — to be created within 60 days after signing of peace agreement — without determining a clear mechanism. Khartoum had first rejected during the talks the principle of compensation.

Abdelwahed Mohamed al-Nur, leader of the other faction of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLA) has so far refused to endorse a peace deal signed on Friday 5 May by rival SLM factional leader Minni Arcua Minnawi and by the Sudanese government to end three years of bloodshed.

Al-Nur refused to sign for identical demands. Besides the demands presented by Minawi faction, al-Nur asks a vice-presidency for Darfur and calls for introducing languages and local dialects into the curricula in the schools of the region.

Nur wrote to African Union (AU) mediators late on Wednesday asking to reopen discussions with Khartoum and pledging to sign the accord if key demands were addressed in a separate document.

(ST)

### **Darfur rebel Nur’s SLM says breakthrough possible**

May 12, 2006 (ABUJA) — A rebel faction from Sudan’s Darfur region, under intense pressure to join a peace agreement, said on Friday its overture to the government had received a positive response and a breakthrough looked possible.

Abdelwahed Mohamed al-Nur of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) has so far refused to endorse a peace deal signed a week ago by rival SLA factional leader Minni Arcua Minnawi and by the Sudanese government to end three years of bloodshed.

The deal's rejection by Nur and by a smaller rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), has raised fears that it would not end the war. The agreement was greeted with violent demonstrations in several Darfur refugee camps.

Nur wrote to African Union (AU) mediators late on Wednesday asking to reopen discussions with Khartoum and pledging to sign the accord if key demands were addressed in a separate document.

"There is a very positive reply from the AU and a positive reply from the government. This might lead to a breakthrough in the negotiations," said Ibrahim Madibo, a close adviser to Nur. They are still in the Nigerian capital Abuja, where the talks that led to the May 5 peace deal took place.

Nur's main demands are for more compensation funds for Darfur from Khartoum, greater political representation for his group, and greater involvement in mechanisms to enforce a ceasefire and disarmament plan foreseen in the accord.

"If there's a new development (on these demands) I'm ready to sign anywhere, anytime, ... But only if there is a clear supplementary document," Nur told Reuters at his hotel.

## U.N. TROOPS

The SLA and the JEM took up arms in early 2003 accusing the Arab-dominated central government of neglecting Darfur, an arid region the size of France in western Sudan.

Khartoum backed militias known as Janjaweed, drawn from Arab tribes, to crush the rebellion. Tens of thousands of people have died and more than 2 million have fled their homes in the ensuing campaign of murder, looting, rape and arson.

Western nations are pushing for a U.N. force to take over from a poorly equipped 7,000-strong AU mission which has failed to restore peace in Darfur.

A reluctant Khartoum had said it would consider letting in U.N. troops if a peace agreement were signed in Abuja, but European Union officials said on Friday Sudan's opposition to a U.N. mission had in fact increased since the deal was reached.

Diplomats in Abuja say discussions involving Nur, Minnawi, the government and international mediators are under way to coax Nur into signing the deal but the situation was delicate.

"We're in the thick of it. It could go either way," said one diplomat who requested anonymity.

Nur and Minnawi loathe each other but Minnawi wants Nur to sign because he does not want spoilers undermining the accord. However, it would be hard for him to swallow any concessions made to his rival after he has already signed the agreement.

Nur is weak militarily but his endorsement of the agreement is important because he is a member of the Fur tribe, Darfur's largest. Minnawi has more fighters but he is from the smaller Zaghawa ethnic group.

Hostility between ethnic groups in Darfur has fuelled the conflict.

(Reuters)

### **SLM's delegation arrives to Darfur to popularize peace accord**

May 11, 2006 (KHARTOUM) — A delegation from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Minni Minawi faction arrived Thursday evening in Al-Fashir, capital of Northern Darfur State. The delegation will visit a number of areas in Darfur to popularize the peace agreement.

In a statement to the Sudan TV at the Al-Fashir airport, the members of the delegation said that the peace agreement signed in Abuja last Friday 5 May constituted a new phase for Darfur, adding that it shows that Darfur had bid farewell to war for good.

In Khartoum, The SLM - Minawi faction has announced that it has started political activities in the capital five days after signing a peace agreement with the government in Abuja.

The agreement raises hope that a U.N. force will be allowed into Darfur to help out the poorly equipped and under-funded AU troops, as Khartoum has said it would consider such a force after a peace deal was signed. It had previously rejected it.

Today, the leader of the other faction of the SLM, Abdelwahed al-Nur said he is willing to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement if Khartoum satisfy certain demands.

He said his key demands were for more compensation funds for Darfur from Khartoum, greater political representation for his group, and greater involvement in mechanisms to enforce a ceasefire and disarmament plan foreseen in the accord.

(ST)

### **Sudan's Islamist leader Al-Turabi condemns Abuja peace deal on Darfur**

Source: Al-Mashahir (Almshaheer) website, Khartoum, in Arabic 13 May 06, BBC Monitoring-- The leader of the [Islamist] Popular National Congress party [PNC], Dr Hasan Abdallah al-Turabi, has condemned the Abuja peace accord on Darfur.

In an interview with Arabic TV channel Al-Jazeera Al-Turabi said the agreement did not take into consideration the political suffering of the people of Darfur, since the time of the British colonial rule in addition to poverty, drought and dwindling resources.

He said the main rebel group in the region [Sudan Liberation Movement - SLM] signed the accord under US pressure and threats of prosecuting those who will not sign it. Al-Turabi said African and Arab countries were also involved in pressurizing the rebel group into signing the agreement, giving an example of Libya, which he alleged threatened to cut off assistance to the parties which will not sign the accord. Al-Turabi said the public opinion in Darfur from students to political parties are against the Abuja peace deal.

Al-Turabi said most of those who participated in the negotiations told him about the nature of the pressure which was exerted on the rebel movements.

On intervention by an international force in Darfur Al-Turabi said the USA which attended the recent Abuja peace talks did not discuss the issue the real issues which affect Darfurians but, the location of its forces in the region.

### **Sudan: Darfur tribal leaders urge two other rebel groups to sign peace accord**

Text of report by Sudanese Media Centre website on 13 May, BBC Monitoring-- The leaders of the Zaghawa ethnic community residing in the capital Khartoum have urged the Justice and Equality Movement [JEM] and the faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] led by Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur, to sign the Abuja peace agreement on Darfur.

They urged the two groups to sign the accord for the sake of peace, which is being waited for by the region's refugees in the neighbouring countries and camps for the displaced people .

The leaders also issued a statement backing the peace agreement on Darfur, saying that they would work tirelessly with all the forces for the stability of Darfur and Sudan in general.

### **Southern Sudan**

#### **South Sudan PRM militia joins Sudan SPLM**

Alfred Ladu Bore, commander and chairman of the Patriotic Resistance Movement/Army (PRM/A) of southern Sudan now agrees to join the SPLM/A after 13 years of opposition to them. The PRM/A was formed in October 1993 due to certain contradictions within the SPLM/A in early 1990s, Khartoum Monitor.