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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Security Council condemns Chadian opposition's activities (Al-Rai Al-aam)

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Sudan army captain defects to Chad and claims to be financing rebels (ST)
- Sudan masses rebels to attack - Chadian statement (ST)
- Arab tribe in Abyei set conciliatory tone on dispute with SPLM (ST)
- Sudanese, Eritrean presidents discuss Darfur and Chad (ST)
- Khartoum manipulates Misseriya to control Sudan's Abyei - HRW (ST)
- Plane suspected of carrying vehicles, equipments to JEM seized in Khartoum Airpo (Sudan Vision)
- Sudan requests UN to pay back DDR money (Sudan Vision)
- \$1.2 million from donors to DDR (Al-Ayyam)
- Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman to represent Sudan at UN summit (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Messeriya open Meiram aweil road (El-Sharee El-Siasi)
- AEC chairman to discuss issues concerning CPA implementation (Sudan ribune)
- Chairman of National Council for DDR calls on UN to urge donors to fulfill their commitments made at Oslo conference (SUNA)

➤ **GoSS**

- Salva Kiir says concerned by Rumbek mosque incident (ST)
- Uganda's LRA leader to sign peace deal on Thursday - Machar (ST)
- De-mining process along Al-Salam Road to begin Saturday (SUNA)
- Rejection to Integrate former SSDF of Paulino Matip into (Sudan Vision)
- 90 Enumerators promise to be faithful (Miraya FM)
- SPLM's committee on Abyei reports to Kiir (Al- Rai-Ala'am)

➤ **Darfur**

- Salva Kiir meets with UN AU envoys for discussion on Darfur (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

- Darfur rebels meeting in Juba unite under (URF) (Miraya FM)
- Memo to Bush on Darfur (News Now)

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Memo to Bush on Darfur – Op-ed (New Now)

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Security Council condemns Chadian opposition's activities

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The UN Security Council condemned Wednesday the unswerving Chadian opposition groups, calling on Khartoum and Ndjamena to respect their commitments for the sake of peace.

South African Ambassador, whose country is chairing this month SC's session, told journalists that the council's members denounced the continuous operations of the Chadian rebels and specially their recent attack on the Sudanese border town of Adri. He added that the council member states appealed to both Chad and Sudan to be committed to their obligations stipulated in peace agreement signed in Dakar, Senegal.

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman to represent Sudan at UN Summit

President Bashir has tasked his Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman to represent Sudan on behalf of him at the UN Summit, scheduled to be convened 16 April. Sudan' Chief Delegate to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim told (Al-Rai-Ala'am) that the President Envoy would be carrying a written message from President Bashir to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon dealing with Darfur issue.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan army captain defects to Chad and claims to be financing rebels

(ST) April 09, 2008 (NDAJAMENA) — A Sudanese army captain has deserted to Chad and claimed to be the liaison in charge of providing funds to rebels trying to oust President Idriss Deby.

The website of Chadian presidency posted what it said was a confession by officer Jamal Mahmoud Mohamad.

"I deal with all respect to the financing of rebel movements engaged in military activities against Chad. I am also responsible for funding the activities of the Janjaweed" Mohamad was quoted as saying on the website.

The Sudanese army spokesperson Osman Al-Agbash confirmed the defection of Mohamad but accused the latter of embezzling 2 million pounds in soldiers' salaries.

Al-Agbash told the government sponsored Sudanese media Center (SMC) that Mohamad received 5 million pounds to disburse. He added that the officer disappeared on April 7th.

The incident highlights the growing tension between the two countries that reached its peak following the Chadian rebels assault on the capital Ndjamena last February. Chad accused Sudan of orchestrating the failed coup attempt.

Chad said today that Sudan is massing thousands of rebel troops on the joint border to attack its army, adding that Khartoum government intends to destabilize the whole region.

The defector was quoted by the Chadian presidency as saying that he “observed that the Sudan misusing the money of the people to massacre the people of Darfur and destabilize Chad, which is neighboring country”.

“The aim of the authorities in my country is to create disorder in the western Sudanese region and take advantage of its wealth” his statement read.

But the Sudanese army dismissed his testimony.

“These lies are simply a cover up to the crime he committed. This officer is a traitor in the eyes of the armed forces,” Al-Agbash said.

The official said that the army filed a police complaint against him.

Mohamad said he joined the Sudanese army since 2001. The Chadian presidency showed pictures of him along with the money he was carrying.

[Sudan masses rebels to attack - Chadian statement](#)

(ST) April 9, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — Chad said today that Sudan is massing thousands of rebel troops on the joint border to attack its army, adding that Khartoum government intends to destabilize the whole region

Yesterday the Sudanese Presidential Assistant, Nafi Ali Nafi accused Chad to providing troops to fight besides the rebel Justice and Equality Movement affirming the readiness of the Sudanese army to repel the assailants.

"The Ministry of National Defence wishes to inform national and international opinion that once again, the regime of Omer al Bashir, in its determination to destabilize Chad, is massing, training and the heavily arming thousands of its mercenaries at the border in eastern Chad to launch in the next few days of attacks against the positions of our defence forces and security." said Defence Minister Mahamat Ali Abdallah.

The Chadian presidency website where the statement of the defence minister is published seems more and more to an opposition website against Khartoum, every week there is one or two communiqués on Sudanese government.

Last week the Chadian presidency published a text of a telephone conversation attributed to the head of Sudanese secret service, Salah Gosh, where he asks the head of the Chadian rebels to topple Deby regime as soon as possible.

Also, there is a text representing the confession of a Sudanese army officer where he admits having worked in hiring janjaweed militias and Chadian "mercenaries" to torpedo N'Djamena government, a picture of the Sudanese officer with bag full of money Sudan, also published with the text.

Defence minister statement was issued on the eve of a first session by a contact group tasked to implement a March 13 Dakar agreement to end the five-year conflict between the two African neighbors.

US, French, United Nations, European Union and African Union representatives were also expected to attend.

Chad regretted the silence of the international community, warning that Sudanese al-Bashir plans do not aim only to destabilize Chad "but also the entire region of Central Africa in line with an Islamic expansionism that does not speak its name," the minister's statement said.

However, the Chadian government said "it reserves the right to use all legal means in its possession to defend the integrity of its national territory and protect its people against attacks mercenaries of Khartoum."

The latest accusations come a week after fighting between the Chadian army and Chadian rebels in the east of the country.

The Dakar pact on the sidelines of a summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was the outcome of strong international pressure on both leaders to end the five-year intermittent conflict.

An alliance of three rebel groups attacked Ndjamena over the weekend of February 2-3 after sweeping across the desert from bases in Sudan. They were driven out by Deby's troops with indirect military support from former colonial master France.

All rebel groups that participated in the offensive had signed a peace deal with the government last October.

[Arab tribe in Abyei set conciliatory tone on dispute with SPLM](#)

(ST) April 09, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The leadership of the Misseriya tribe will head next Saturday to Northern Bahr El-Ghazal State to congratulate the newly appointed governor Major General Paul Malong Awan, Sudan official news agency (SUNA) reported.

The new governor is believed to be in good terms with the Misseriya tribe since the North-South civil war that ended in 2005.

The Arab tribe to announce the opening of Miram-Awil road closed during recent escalation of tensions with Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA).

Sudan's ruling party last week accused SPLM of stoking tensions in oil-rich Abyei by unilaterally appointing a governor in the disputed state, saying it violated the north-south cease fire.

The charges by the NCP came after the former southern rebel group accused the northern army of sending troops into Abyei town, capital of the state disputed by Sudan's north and south.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) warned today that attacks in the disputed region between two sides will deter displaced people "from returning to the disputed areas to register for the national census, which is important for future elections, a referendum on independence for the south, and resource distribution between Khartoum and southern Sudan".

The rights watchdog said that the "unresolved question of whether Abyei belongs to the north or the south are the main threats to full implementation of the peace agreement".

The Abyei protocol is part of the Naivasha agreement that ended two decades of the civil war between the North and the South.

Under the protocol a commission known as the Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) was to "define and demarcate the area of the nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905, referred to herein as Abyei Area".

However, the president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said that the NCP is committed to the Abyei Protocol only with the border of 1905. He further said the government is not concerned with the ABC report and that the latter is of no value to them.

The SPLM chairman Salva Kiir on his end insisted that the Abyei Protocol is binding to the NCP.

One of the Misseriya tribe leading figures Mukhtar Babu Nimir told SUNA that a reconciliation conference would be held with Nuer tribe in Heglig.

Nimir said that the Misseriya would return stolen livestock to the Nuer tribe while the latter will pay them blood money. He also hailed the revocation of the SPLM administrative body in Abyei headed by Edward Leno saying it "paves the way for dialogue to end the tensions in the area".

The Misseriya figure called on a joint council with Dink Ngok to run the oil rich region to "fill the administrative void".

The SPLM signed a peace deal in January 2005 with the government of the National Congress Party in January 2005 ending two decades of civil war in Southern Sudan. The peace deal made the SPLM, the ruling party in the south and the NCP the ruling party in the north.

In 2011, southerners will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether they want to be independent or remain part of Sudan.

[Sudanese, Eritrean presidents discuss Darfur and Chad](#)

(ST) April 9, 2008 (ASMARA) — Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki held talks today evening at the State Palace in Asmara, where they discussed bilateral relations, the political process in Darfur and latest developments in Sudan-Chad relations.

Sudanese al Bashir Wednesday was in the Eritrean capital in a one-day working visit. He was accompanied by Nafi Ali Nafi Presidential Assistant and in charge of Darfur talks, Mustafa Osman Ismail Presidential, Gen. Bakri Hassan Saleh, Minister at the Presidency, the General Salah Abdallah Gosh, the head of the security and the national intelligence service and Azubier Ahmed Al-Hassan, Minister of Energy and Mines.

Speaking to the press following the meeting, Al-Bashir said that his visit to Eritrea comes in the framework of continuous consultation between the two countries and the evolving relations between Khartoum and Asmara. He further added "Political relations between the two countries reached an excellent level and there is coordination and cooperation between the two sides in all fields."

He explained that he discussed with the Eritrean President, the role that could be played by Eritrea to settle Darfur crisis, especially as "President Afwerki has concerns on this issue and will work to harness these concerns to achieving security and stability in Darfur."

Asmara hosted in the past Darfur rebel groups and still has good contacts with some of these movements. It also participates in the UN-AU peace mediation for peace in Darfur within the frame of neighbouring countries initiative.

Bashir said that the talks also addressed to the Sudanese Chadian tension, pointing out that there is [Tripoli] agreement between the Sudan and Chad; Eritrea was one of the guarantors of this deal.

He indicated that he had talked with President Afwerki on the possibility of reviving the agreement and its implementation. He asserted that "without mending the Sudanese Chadian relations there will be a negative impact on the situation in Darfur."

Chad and Sudan signed the first accord in Tripoli on February 8, 2008 banning the two countries from supporting each other's rebels. But the agreement collapsed after the April 2006 offensive by the anti-Deby rebels against N'Djamena.

President Bashir affirmed that the relations between Sudan and Eritrea will see a positive development in all areas.

While, Presidential adviser, Mustafa Osman Ismail, announced an ambitious plan to implement development projects in the border areas between the two countries in

order to promote reconstruction and to facilitate trade movement between the two sides.

He further said that the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, signed in October 2007 and sponsored by Eritrea, led to the opening of a new page of relations Sudanese-Eritrean beside of the exchange of mutual benefit.

[Khartoum manipulates Misseriya to control Sudan's Abyei - HRW](#)

(ST) April 10, 2008, (NEW YORK) – Human Rights Watch (HRW) expressed concern that the ongoing militia attacks may be part of efforts by the Khartoum government to ensure that Abyei and neighboring parts of Unity state remain with northern Sudan.

The dispute over control of the area and the unresolved question of whether Abyei belongs to the north or the south are the main threats to full implementation of the peace agreement.

Militia attacks on travelers in disputed areas dividing northern and southern Sudan may reflect a Sudanese government attempt to skew a crucial census registration, the rights watchdog said on Thursday.

HRW investigations in oil-rich Unity state have found that since December 2007, armed nomadic Arab militias from the Misseriya ethnic group have carried out dozens of attacks against people trying to return, resulting in deaths and injuries, and also detained travelers at roadblocks.

In March, Victims of recent road ambushes near Bentiu town in Unity state said that robbery was not the motive of the attackers because the heavily armed Misseriya militia opened fire on travelers without any apparent interest in theft. The location of the attacks – on the roads, rather than in villages – has had an immediate impact on movement in and through the area.

Misseriya militia also attacked 600 people traveling from Khartoum in late March 2008 on their way to Western Bahr el-Ghazal state in southern Sudan. Roadblocks in the oil-producing area of Heglig in Upper Nile State in southern Sudan in late March have discouraged people from returning.

The attacks are deterring displaced people from returning to the disputed areas to register for the national census, which is important for future elections, a referendum on independence for the south, and resource distribution between Khartoum and southern Sudan.

The census is a critical element in implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the 21-year war between the northern-based Sudanese government in Khartoum and the southern Sudanese rebels. The nationwide census is scheduled for April 14-30, 2008.

In the past the Sudanese government in Khartoum has provided weapons and other support to the Misseriya. The increasing insecurity is preventing Southerners,

originating from these areas but displaced by war to Khartoum, from returning to their homes to be counted in the April census.

[Plane suspected of carrying vehicles, equipments to JEM seized in Khartoum Airport](#)

(Sudan Vision) Sudan Vision's sources have revealed that Sudanese authorities have seized a plane in Khartoum International Airport while transporting vehicles and equipments believed to be on their way to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The plane, which was chartered by Al-Majara Company, had touched down at Khartoum Airport to refuel on its way to N'djamena coming from the United Arab Emirates.

The plane carried the United Nations logo, though it has not been established whether it is a UN plane or not, the sources said, adding that suspicions of officials at Khartoum Airport were roused by the discrepancy between the planes manifesto and its cargo.

The sources further identified the plane's cargo as 8 Land-cruiser pickups - 2008 model, a Prado car - 2008 model , 8 large barrels whose contents have not yet been identified and a number of Thuraya systems.

Though no official statements have been issued on the incident, sources considered the cargo likely to be on its way to JEM. Sudanese authorities consequently seized the plane until the matter has been cleared up, according to the sources.

On the other hand Al-Ayyam newspaper reported that the identity of the plane which was en route to N'djamena had not yet been established.

It said the plane was carrying vehicles and equipment but it did not specify.

Whereas Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper reported that, it is a Hungarian plane coming from Sanaa (Yemen) en route to Lagos (Nigeria) and is carrying three vehicles.

However, after investigation the authorities discovered that the plane was coming from one of the Arab countries en route to N'djamena and loaded with nine vehicles and computers.

[Sudan requests UN to pay back DDR money](#)

(Sudan Vision) Sudan Government has demanded UN to refund amount of money allocated for DDR for 2006-2007.

While addressing round table conference between UN, Sudan Government and donors, Minister at the Presidency, Chairman of National Council for Coordinating DDR, Lt. General Bakri Hassan Salih stated that there was no justification for the procedure that UN has taken. He affirmed the government keenness to implement the programme.

Salih called upon the UN to urge donors to honour their obligations, which they pledged in the donors' conference in Oslo.

Representative of UN in the conference stated that the funds come as part of peacekeeping operation. She added that efforts are being exerted to refund the money.

Special representative of UN Secretary General in Sudan, Ashraf Gazi stated that there were many challenges that face DDR program in Sudan. He added that the meeting of next May would be an excellent opportunity for UN and partners to guarantee suitable funding for DDR program.

[\\$1.2 million from donors to DDR](#)

(Al-Ayyam) GoSS, UN and representative of donors approved yesterday DDR strategy implementation document, a process described as unprecedented with a total cost of 1.2 billion dollars to be carried out within a timeframe of four years.

Meanwhile GoSS demanded the refund of DDR money (2006-2007 budget) returned by UNMIS to UN and urged donors to honour their pledges and to support the implementation of the strategy. The amount the Government demanded its refund is estimated to be \$ 40 million.

[Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman to represent Sudan at UN summit](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) President Bashir has tasked his Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman to represent Sudan on behalf of him at the UN Summit, scheduled to be convened 16 April.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim told the newspaper that the Presidential Envoy would be carrying a written message from President Bashir to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon dealing with Darfur issue.

[Messeriya open Meriam aweil road](#)

(El-Sharee El-Siasi) Messeriya tribe said a delegation representing the tribe would leave next Saturday for North Bahr el Ghazal State to congratulate the new State's Governor and declare opening of Meriam-Aweil road.

Tribe emir Mukhtar Babu Nimir told (SUNA) that a reconciliatory conference between Messeriya and Nuer tribes is to convene today in Hegleig, South Kordofan State during which cattle seized by Messeriya will be returned to Nuer.

He welcomed SPLM's intention to abolish the current Administration in Abyei, calling for the formation of council representing Messeria and Ngok Dinka tribes to administer Abyei area.

[AEC chairman to discuss issues concerning CPA implementation](#)

(Sudan Tribune) The recently appointed Chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission Sir Derek Pumbly arrived in South Sudan yesterday morning and was received at Juba International Airport by Director General Madame Beatrice Khamis Wani on behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation.

Upon his arrival Sir Plumbly briefed the press on the issues of his visit to Southern Sudan. "I am here to meet with many individuals in southern Sudan concerning the implementation of the CPA and we have presently the mid-term for the implementation of the CPA and the remaining three years for the interim period to be complete because there are a lot of difficulties.

Sir Plumbly will be here from April 9 until April 11 and will be meeting with the leadership of GoSS, President Salva Kiir, GoSS Ministers and UNMIS representatives.

[Chairman of National Council for DDR calls on UN to urge donors to fulfill their commitments made at Oslo conference](#)

Khartoum, April 9 (SUNA) - Minister of the Presidency of the Republic and Chairman of the National Council for Coordinating Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih has called on UN to urge donors to fulfill their commitments made at Oslo conference on support to peace in Sudan. Addressing the opening session of the Round Table Conference between the government, UN and donors held on Wednesday here, Salih reiterated keenness of the government to carry out the DDR programme. The minister considered disarmament programs a safety valve for implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In this regard he called on the UN to return funds that were allocated for the program for the years 2006 and 2007.

He pointed out that the national plan of the DDR has allocated important role to the national voluntary organizations to participate with the international voluntary organizations in implementing the program. The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, expressed hope that the conference would reach formulating a comprehensive document on the DDR program between North and South commissions of the DDR.

Qazi said the donors' conference in Paris would be a good opportunity for the partners, donors and the UN to allocate adequate funding for this program. State Minister at the International Cooperation Ministry, Prof. Alais Niyamil, said the success of the peace process in Sudan depends on implementing the DDR program, calling upon international partners, UN and donors to back success of this program. The representative of donors pledged to support the DDR program in Sudan.

GoSS

[Salva Kiir says concerned by Rumbek mosque incident](#)

(ST) April 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese First Vice-President expressed concern over the decision of Lakes State authorities to prevent Rumbek Muslim from rebuilding Rumbek Mosque and the arrest of six among them last February.

Salva Kiir Mayardit, has urged the southern government to safeguard the rights of Muslims to carry out their religious rites through religious coexistence as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the official SUNA reported.

The President of the Government of Southern Sudan said he would issue his directives to the region's governor, Daniel Awet Akot, to take the necessary steps which will ensure that the Mosque resumes sending out its message.

In last February, the Lakes state authorities arrested six Muslims for trying to rebuild a mosque in the town centre despite the rejection of the competent authorities to give the necessary permission.

Rumbek Muslim said they wanted to renovate their mosque which established since 1936. But the authorities said they are mapping the town and a special land would be allotted for the mosque out the town centre.

[Uganda's LRA leader to sign peace deal on Thursday - Machar](#)

(ST) April 9, 2008 (JUBA) — Uganda's fugitive rebel commander Joseph Kony will sign a final deal on Thursday at the remote Sudan-Congo border to end one of Africa's longest wars, the chief mediator at peace talks has said.

South Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar said Kony's shadowy Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) guerrillas had told him their leader was at the location and that the signing ceremony, which was postponed from last week, would take place as planned.

"The LRA delegation has assured me that Kony is in Ri-Kwangba and he is ready to sign the peace deal on Thursday," Machar told Reuters in the south Sudanese capital Juba.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague wants the elusive Kony and two of his top deputies for war crimes including rape, murder and the abduction of children during their two-decade insurgency.

Fearing arrest, they have never attended the long-running talks in Juba, instead staying hidden in the lawless wilderness of Garamba Forest in the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Diplomatic sources involved in the negotiations said Kony's final intentions were far from clear.

No outsiders have seen him in months, and even if he breaks cover to sign a final agreement, his fighters have refused to lay down their arms until the ICC warrants are scrapped.

Uganda's government has said it will ask for the indictments to be lifted only after a final deal is reached. It was not clear whether that meant the rebels had to disarm first too.

"We've done everything that could be done to make sure the two sides agree to sign," Machar said late on Tuesday.

"Let's wait and see what happens."

DISTRUST

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is expected to sign the deal at a separate ceremony planned in Juba for April 15 that local officials say will be attended by regional leaders including Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Huge mistrust remains between Kampala and the rebels after a civil war that killed tens of thousands of people and uprooted 2 million more in northern Uganda and destabilised neighbouring parts of south Sudan and eastern Congo.

In the latest twist, LRA representatives in Juba accused the Ugandan security forces of using former LRA combatants and negotiators to try to urge their commanders to quit the bush.

The rebels' chief negotiator David Nyekorach-Matsanga said that violated an earlier truce agreement and must be stopped.

What happens next might depend on the ICC, which says its warrants for Kony and two other commanders — Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen — remain active. The U.N. Security Council could ask it to put them on hold if there was a real chance for peace.

Agreements already signed by Kampala and the rebels set up a special division of Uganda's High Court to deal with offences committed during the civil war.

The ICC says only a judicial process delivering stiff jail terms for grave crimes is acceptable as an alternative to the world court. And they say Uganda has a legal obligation to arrest and hand over the three men if it can.

[Rejection to Integrate former SSDF of Paulino Matip into SPLA](#)

(Sudan Vision) There is widespread discontent among SPLA forces on the handling of SPLA affairs including the decision of SPLA leadership not to integrate former SSDF of Paulino Matip 7000 troops into SPLA.

As a result the rejected soldiers decided to take the laws into their own hands by destabilizing the region until their demands are met. Demonstration were staged by over 2000 SPLA officers in Malou and Rumbek, for the non payment of their salaries for more than seven months, a press release said Wednesday.

The statement issued by SPLA rejected forces called on the international community to condemn SPLA leadership violation of Juba Declaration. Many members of former SSDF served in the SPLA like slaves without being paid. Rather than implementing Juba Declaration to the letter, the Chief-of-staff of the SPLA, under orders from SPLA C-in-C Salva Kiir, rejected former SSDF of Paulino Matip to be integrated into the SPLA, said the statement.

It would not help the leadership of the SPLA if Upper Nile rebellion is replicated in the other parts of the South.

The statement further condemned the leaderships of both the SPLA and the SPLM party for attempting to fling the south into military conflict after the signing of the historic Juba declaration.

"The position taken by Lt. Gen. Oyal Deng Ajak and Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir will not bring peace but war among south Sudanese" said the statement announcing rejection to amend the Juba Declaration unilaterally. Such a move according the statement, demonstrates that the SPLA leadership to end all forms of conflict and hostilities among southerners

[De-mining process along Al-Salam Road to begin Saturday](#)

Khartoum, April 9 (SUNA) - The process of de-mining the strategic road linking the North and South, along 987 kilometers between Renk - Malkal- Bor- Juba, will be launched next Saturday, said the Director of the National Mine Action Center, Colonel Al-Awad Al-Bashir. Col Al-Awad said in a statement to SUNA that the first phase remove mines from Malakal - Ayoud road covers about 140 kilometers and 50 meters width. He explained that the working teams include groups of engineering troops from the Armed Forces, Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Integrated Units who were well trained in the International Anti-mine Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. He also affirmed that all preparations have been completed to begin technical and logistic work, revealing that the teams are expected to finish the work within 38 days only according to the schedule.

Col Al-Awad affirmed the importance of the road as a link between south and north Sudan which has been closed since 1986, saying that it will contribute to the voluntary repatriation of citizens as well as promotion of the trade between the North and the South.

[190 Enumerators promise to be faithful](#)

(Miraya FM) Over 190 Enumerators from Central and North Rumbek Counties of the Lakes State took an oath to be faithful as they conduct the 5th Sudan Population and Housing Census, which is scheduled to take place on the 15th this month.

The swearing in ceremony was done in the presence of Alexander Kuldyang, Deputy President of the Appeal Court of Greater Bahr el-Ghazal.

Speaking during the swearing ceremony, the Statistical Director in Lakes State, Majak Machar, said that the same function is also taking place in other training centers throughout the state.

Mr. Machar added that all the Enumerators would be deployed to their various enumerated areas by Friday.

[SPLM's committee on Abyei reports to Kiir](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) SPLM's Abyei committee, assigned by SPLM to assess the situation in then area, is to hand over its report today to the SPLM Silva Kiir.

GoSS Minister OF Presidential Affairs Dr. Luka Biong told (Al-Rai-Ala'am) that the report ensured the retention of Edward Lino as SPLM' Political Supervisor for Abyei. He added that the committee commended the role played by Lino in enhancing peace co-existence in the area, calling on the NCP to dispatch similar committee to get acquainted with the situation there.

Darfur

Salva Kiir meets with UN AU envoys for discussion on Darfur

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The UN-AU Joint Mediation team discussed Wednesday with the First Vice-President and GoSS Chairman Silva Kiir steps taken so far as regards reunification of Darfur rebel factions.

GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs Luka Biong said that the meeting of UN-AU envoys with Kiir reviewed SPLM' initiative to unify Darfur rebel factions prior to declaring a deadline of the coming round of talks.

Darfur rebels meeting in Juba unite under (URF)

(Miraya FM) Darfur rebel groups meeting in Juba announced on Tuesday the formation of a united leadership council of twelve members under the umbrella of United Resistances Front (URF).

The spokesman of the URF Bashir Tajaldin, said that the leadership of the front will consist of a collective presidency of five members headed by Bahar Idris Abugarda.

The URF also named General Adam Bakhit as a military commander and four other generals as deputy field commanders.

The URF further established two general secretariats to be supervised by engineers Monsour Al-Bar and Mohammed Beda.

Mr. Tajaldin said, the aim of the URF is to unite and coordinate all political, military and propaganda efforts to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the people of Darfur.

The five rebel groups include the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, Movement for National Reformation and Development, the United Revolutionary Front, and the Justice and Equality Movement (collective leadership).

The deputy secretary general for the SPLM for southern sector, Dr. Ann Itto, urged the URF to work hard.

The chairperson of the SPLM Task Force on Darfur, Abdelaziz Adam Al-Hilu said that there are over twenty rebel movements in Darfur.

He recommended the URF to consider unifying its ranks with the remaining rebel movements in Darfur.

Meanwhile, the special envoys of the United Nations and the African union, Jan Eliasson, and Salim Ahmed Salim, have arrived in Juba on a one-day visit.

The envoys are expected to meet a number of leaders of Darfur in Juba, which united in the past few days under the name of the United Resistance Front.

Miscellaneous

Memo to Bush on Darfur

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF (OP-ED COLUMNIST ,THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Published: April 10, 2008

(News Now) President Bush seems genuinely troubled by the slaughter in Darfur and has periodically suggested to Condoleezza Rice: *Why can't we just send troops in and take care of it?* Each time, Ms. Rice patiently explains: *You can't invade a third Muslim country, especially one with oil.* And so Mr. Bush backs off and does nothing.

But this week marks the 14th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide — the last time we said “never again.” And while Ms. Rice is right that we can't send in American ground troops, there are concrete steps that President Bush can take if he wants to end his shameful passivity:

1. Work with France to end the proxy war between Sudan and Chad and to keep Sudan from invading Chad and toppling its government. Stopping the Darfur virus from infecting the surrounding countries must be a top priority. And even if the West lacks the gumption to do much within Sudan, it should at least try to block the spread of genocide to the entire region.

France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, is leading the way in providing a European force to stabilize Chad and Central African Republic, and we should back him strongly. If Sudan dispatches additional proxy troops, France and the U.S. should use aircraft to strafe the invaders. But we should also push Chad's repressive president to accommodate his domestic opponents rather than imprison them.

2. Broaden the focus from “save Darfur” to “save Sudan.” There is a growing risk that the war between North and South Sudan will resume in the coming months and that Sudan will shatter into pieces. The U.S. should try to shore up the fraying north-south peace agreement and urgently help South Sudan with an anti-aircraft capability, to deter Khartoum from striking the South.

3. Right before or after this summer's G-8 summit, President Bush should convene an international conference on Sudan, inviting among others Mr. Sarkozy, Gordon Brown of Britain, Hu Jintao of China, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and

Sudanese leaders themselves. The conference should be convened in Kigali, Rwanda, so that participants can reflect on the historical resonance of genocide.

One aim would be to pressure China to suspend arms transfers to Sudan until it seriously pursues peace in Darfur (we'll get further by treating China as important rather than as evil). Such an arms suspension would be the single best way to induce Sudan to make concessions needed to achieve peace. The conference would also focus on supporting the U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur with helicopters, training and equipment.

4. The conference should aim to restart a Darfur peace process, because the only way the slaughter will truly end is with a peace agreement. A prominent figure like Kofi Annan should lead the talks, working full time and with a first-rate staff to crack heads of Sudanese officials and rebel leaders alike.

5. The U.N. and U.S. should take South Sudan up on its offers in 2004 and 2005 to provide up to 10,000 peacekeepers for Darfur. South Sudanese peacekeepers wouldn't need visas or interpreters. They can simply walk to Darfur from their present positions, and they would make a huge difference in security.

6. The U.S. should impose a no-fly zone over Darfur from the air base in Abeche, Chad (or even from our existing base in Djibouti). We wouldn't keep planes in the air or shoot down Sudanese aircraft. Rather, the next time Sudan breaches the U.N. ban on offensive military flights, we would wait a day or two and then destroy a Sudanese Antonov bomber on the ground.

Aid groups mostly oppose this approach for fear that Sudan would respond by cutting off humanitarian access, and that's a legitimate concern. We should warn Sudan that any such behavior would lead it to lose other aircraft. Sudan's leaders are practical and covet their planes.

7. We should warn Sudan that if it provokes a war with the South, attacks camps for displaced people or invades a neighboring country, we will destroy its air force. As Roger Winter, a longtime Sudan expert, puts it: "They act when they are credibly threatened. They don't react when we throw snow at them."

8. The central reason for our failure in Sudan is that we haven't proffered meaningful sticks or carrots. A no-fly zone is a stick, but we also should reiterate that if President Omar al-Bashir seeks peace in Darfur and South Sudan, then the U.S. will normalize relations, lift sanctions and take Sudan off the list of nations that sponsor terrorism.

If President Bush takes all these steps, will they succeed in ending the genocide? We don't know, but pretending that there is nothing more that we can do is as dishonest as it is disgraceful.