



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 08 August 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Activities of Special Envoy Jan Eliasson

(*AlAyaam*) Following talks yesterday with the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson said that he briefed the government on the outcome of the Arusha talks. He said he also called on government to commit to a ceasefire and end all forms of hostilities in Darfur.

Sudan's government is not enthusiastic about some elements of a joint Darfur rebel negotiating platform agreed during the Arusha, the envoy said. "Not all of the points of course are met with great enthusiasm, but it is a basis."

He pointed out that the government does not want to have a renegotiation of the DPA but said that this is a matter the envoys will discuss both with the government and with the non-signatories on how to finalize the final agenda.

He said that the UN-AU team would in the coming few weeks be engaged in shuttle diplomacy to try to bring government and rebel positions together in the coming weeks to reach a final agenda for talks, due to begin in about two months.

Senior Foreign Ministry official Mutrif Siddig said the government welcomed the Arusha talks, but was disappointed not all the factions were present and that the original timeline, which had envisaged peace talks beginning by August, was lost.

He said also that the government welcomes a cessation of hostilities in Darfur but reserves the right to respond in self-defense. He also called on the international community to send a message to the rebel movements to lay down arms and concentrate on talks.

"Sudan is ready to respond to some of the content of the (Arusha) statement, particularly the points regarding the cessation of hostilities when others also do respect it," Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ali al-Sadiq said following the meeting yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry Spokesperson adds that Special Envoy Jan Eliasson also raised the issue of Suleiman Jamous in his talks with the government and has received confirmations that government has no objection to setting him free on condition that the international community guarantees that he does not go back to fight and that he works to facilitate the peace process. Government, he said, has no objection to giving him the chance.

Editorial: The *AlAyaam* editorial article for today printed under the heading, "Arusha ... light at the end of the tunnel" lauds the decision of those armed movements of Darfur that participated at the Arusha meeting and the outcome and understandings reached, notably, a unified negotiations position on power and wealth sharing and a political settlement of the crisis in Darfur. The paper says this is a step on a long journey.

Excerpts: “The fragmentation of the rebel groups and the related power struggles has been of much concern to the people of Darfur and to the Sudanese, regional and international communities eager on a solution to the problems. This has caused unrest in the political arena in Darfur and has turned to a purely Darfuri bickering through the print and electronic media that does not serve the quest for a solution but only serves the interests of those who are still bent on fuelling the conflict in Darfur and tearing asunder its social fabric. This has caused a lot of depression.

“The conclusions of the Arusha meeting, even though some groups did not participate, is light at the end of a dark tunnel and a sign that there is a political solution looming over the horizons. These non-participants that have decided to entrench themselves in their old positions will not help in the quest for a comprehensive solution and only seek to revisit the Abuja experience in a different way.”

The editorial concludes with a call upon all to back the decisions reached in Arusha, to work together for its implementation and to exert concerted efforts to convince the factions to join what it dubbed the “Consensus”.

Rumbek meeting flops due to lack of transport

(*AlRai AlAam; AlAyaam* – 8 Aug. JUBA, KHARTOUM) The United Nations has refused to transport field commanders participating at the just-concluded Arusha consultations to Rumbek where they were supposed to hold talks with Vice-President Salva Kiir.

Jar-el-Nebbi AbdelKareem, a prominent field commander of the opposition SLA, said they were informed by the United Nations that it is obliged only to return them back to the field. He said that all of them were to spend the night at the United Nations base in Juba from where they will be flown directly to their respective fields in the morning. He said that the commanders had apologized to the SPLM and requested the party to set a new schedule for the meeting.

Jar-el-Nebbi further pointed out that the field commanders did not want to interfere in the affairs of the United Nations Mission in Sudan because they are aware from past interaction with the mission that it does not change its flight routes.

Nasr-el-deen Mohamed Abakar (another field commander) is quoted in *AlAyaam* daily as saying that Juba was but a transit point for them en route to the field. He said they had not stopped over in Juba for onward travel to Rumbek for talks with the SPLM as had been planned by the latter. He said they had hoped to meet Vice-President Kiir and others last evening to brief them on the outcome of Arusha.

UN sets timetable for Sudan mission

(*SADC* – 8 Aug.) United Nations (UN) is on target to deploy the much anticipated hybrid peace force in the Sudanese region of Darfur. The world body has released a timetable that sets out clear steps to be followed, until the mainly African 26 000 troops are finally on the ground in Darfur

early	next	year.
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This follows last week's adoption by the UN Security Council of the historic resolution that authorizes this global peacekeeping mission. The historic mission will cost \$2.5bn to set up. There are reported critical capacity shortages for the mission.

UNAMID, as the hybrid force for Darfur will become the largest peacekeeping force in the world, with almost 26 000 troops and police officers and plus nearly 5000 civilian staff when it reaches full deployment. It will have an initial mandate of 12 months and will incorporate the existing AU Mission in Sudan.

Jane Holl Lute, who is in charge of the UN Department of Field Support and is leading this phase, says they are going to approach the benchmarks set out by the Security Council resolution in three ways: sending police and troops on the ground to augment AMIS, putting in logistical means necessary to support this mission and third by maintaining a robust dialogue with AU, donor partners and the Government of Sudan, to facilitate the smooth deployment and transition from AMIS to the hybrid," she said.

The timeline that will guide this process reveals that the command and control structures of the force will be sent to Darfur with immediate effect. Next month initial supporting troops and police will be deployed to beef up the AU force that is currently on the ground in Darfur. By October they will establish the mission's headquarters in Al Fasher to take over the management, financial and administrative duties.

In a related story, *Reuters* reports that in a conference call with reporters, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, said regions outside Africa would have to be tapped for military personnel.

He warned Khartoum, which was slow to agree to the force and has said most troops should come from Africa, against opposing non-African troops and repeated a U.S. threat of sanctions if it failed to implement previous agreements.

The United States will not send military personnel. U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said Washington would help with hiring companies to build barracks for the peacekeepers and transport to get troops to Darfur. (Follow the links for more on this and the related story: [Read more...](#); [UN has enough infantry for Darfur; needs aircraft](#); [US: Sudan Must Accept Non-African Troops](#)). Full text of the transcript of the press briefing hosting ASG Jan Holl-Lute is attached separately.

Zambia backs Sudan in urging Africans to make up Darfur peacekeeping force

(AP – 7 Aug. LANGKAWI, Malaysia) Zambia urged African countries on Tuesday to contribute to a joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur, supporting Sudan's stance that soldiers from outside the region are unnecessary.

Swaziland said it would likely send troops if formally approached.

"Sudan is a sovereign state, so there is nothing wrong with Sudan wanting an African peacekeeping force," Zambian Information Minister Mike Mulongoti told The Associated Press on the sidelines of an economic conference involving African and Asian leaders in Malaysia.

"What are the benefits to be derived from having forces come in from outside Africa?" Mulongoti said. "In Africa, there are sufficient forces ... that can be trained in an African environment."

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt and Ethiopia have pledged to contribute troops to a joint force. Mulongoti said Zambia would also participate, but he could not immediately say how many more troops it will send.

Swaziland's King Mswati III said his country would consider contributing troops "if we are requested to," adding that African nations are "working very hard to ensure that a lasting solution is actually found."

Malaysia offers peacekeepers for troubled Darfur: Najib

(*AFP* – 7 Aug. LANGKAWI, Malaysia) Malaysia on Tuesday offered to deploy peacekeepers in Sudan's troubled Darfur region under the United Nations banner.

Deputy prime minister Najib Razak said Kuala Lumpur's UN envoy had been ordered to convey the message to the world body that it was prepared to participate in the mission.

"After we know that the UN has accepted our troops, the government will make a formal decision," he said. Malaysia has a long tradition of undertaking peacekeeping missions. It had deployed troops to Somalia, Bosnia, Cambodia and most recently in East Timor.

Abdullah conveyed his position to visiting Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir during a meeting on the sidelines of a poverty conference in the northern resort island of Langkawi.

Fleeing Chadians in Darfur should be classed as refugees: UN

(*United Nations* – 7 Aug., UNITED NATIONS) A joint report by the United Nations refugee agency and its Sudanese Government counterpart has recommended that the estimated 30,000 Chadians who have fled to neighboring Darfur to escape a worsening security situation in their homeland be classified as refugees.

But the report also warned that anyone in that group who is an active or former combatant in the clashes in Chad should not be granted refugee status, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis said today.

Ms. Pagonis told reporters at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva that the recommendations follow an in-depth field assessment carried out in West Darfur state this year by staff from UNHCR and Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees (COR). ([Read more ...](#)).

UNHCR teaches Darfur IDPs to help themselves and environment

(*UNHCR* – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) The UN refugee agency is working with internally displaced Sudanese to rehabilitate the environmental degradation that has been both a cause and a consequence of the Darfur conflict.

Earlier this year, UNHCR through its implementing partner INTERSOS started a community-based environmental rehabilitation project in three localities in West Darfur: Forobaranga, a small town bordering Chad, in Garsila and in Um Kher village.

The three nurseries aim to improve fruit and vegetable production, address deforestation through

growing forest trees and provide local farmers, many of them women and youths, with training on topics like land management, water harvesting, pest control, tree management, intercropping, cash crop management, seed production and storage.

"This is for once good news from Darfur. We are pleased to see local villagers and IDPs alike embark on activities that not only help restore the damaged environment but also provide them with skills to enhance their self-sufficiency in the future," said Chrysantus Ache, UNHCR Representative in Sudan.

The Darfur conflict, often simplified in the public debate, is complex. Among several causes are tensions over access to land, water and resources. Ironically, the massive displacement of Darfurians over the past three years has worsened that already precarious environmental condition.

Darfur's people need more protection - Special Rapporteur

(*IRIN* – 7 Aug. NAIROBI) More action is needed to protect civilians in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, who continue to suffer serious human rights violations in the ongoing conflict, a UN Special Rapporteur said.

In a preliminary report, Sima Samar, Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council, said Darfur had remained a region where gross violations of human rights have been perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.

"I have recently received allegations of serious violations of human rights in areas under SLA/M [Sudan Liberation Army/Movement] control," she said on 6 August. "In particular, harassment, extortion, torture and sexual violence in Tawila and Shangil Tobayi, North Darfur.

"I also received information about forced disappearances and killings in Gerida, South Darfur. These cases should be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice."

In the Sudanese capital Khartoum, the SLA/M faction allied to Minni Minawi refuted the claims, with legal adviser Abdel Aziz Salim describing Samar's findings as 'nonsensical accusations'.

Samar also raised concerns over the challenges facing transitional areas administered by the north, where large parts of its population are ethnically and linguistically close to the south.

"Pockets of clearly divided SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] and SAF [Sudan Armed Forces] control areas, namely in Southern Kordofan and north and south of Abyei town," she said.

"The administration of justice faces enormous challenges as two parallel judicial systems are in place," Samar added. "Clashes over land, water points and cattle have resulted in numerous killings and large displacement of the civilian population."

The Special Rapporteur, who conducted her fourth visit to Sudan from 25 July to 2 August, will present her findings to the UN Human Rights Council in September

Campaign to immunize millions of children against polio

(*IRIN* – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudan has launched a three-day campaign in the north of the country to immunise an estimated five million children against polio after reports of cases in neighbouring Chad.

The campaign, led by the federal health ministry, supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), entered its second day on 7 August as health officials carried out door-to-door inoculations.

The immunisation drive was expected to cover all 15 states in the north of Sudan and organisers hoped to reach at least 82 percent of children under the age of five during the three-day effort.

Officials mobilised tens of thousands of vaccinators but admitted they may not be able to reach children in areas made inaccessible by heavy rains and floods that have been battering much of northern Sudan over the past weeks.

The last three-day vaccination campaign took place at the end of April this year when vaccinators managed to reach more than six million children.

UNICEF has provided vaccine and training for vaccinators in Sudan's regular polio campaigns, with the WHO paying half the operational costs.

Vaccinators are sourced through local state health ministries, non-governmental organisations and from among local communities. Donors include the US Centers for Disease Control, USAID, Rotary International, the World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

IOM Sudan completes return air operation for displaced people to the south

(*IOM* – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) An IOM air operation to help internally displaced (IDPs) people who have been living in Khartoum for many years to return to their homes in the south of the country has ended.

The final two charter flights carrying 233 people left Khartoum at the weekend for Juba and Mundri in Central Equatoria state. It brings the total number of people returned by air to 1,530 since the operation began in mid July to continue assisting the return of IDPs to Central and Western Equatoria states as the rainy season had put an end to road travel.

GoNU/CPA/DPA/ESPA

Sudan vows not to let Darfur peacekeepers undermine its sovereignty

(*AP* – 6 Aug., LANGKAWI, Malaysia) Sudan's government wants a swift end to the violence in its Darfur region, but it will make sure that plans to deploy a joint African Union-U.N. peacekeeping force won't impinge on its sovereignty, a senior official said Monday.

Efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict have gained momentum following the U.N. Security Council's approval last week for a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force, and a meeting over the weekend between Darfur's splinter rebel factions and international officials to discuss an agenda for possible peace talks with the Sudanese government.

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir had previously resisted a push to send U.N. peacekeepers, saying he viewed U.N. blue helmets as a neocolonial force. But Sudan agreed in June to a compromise deal for the African Union to deploy jointly with the U.N. in a "hybrid force."

Tag-el-Sirr Mahgoub, secretary general for national strategic planning in al-Bashir's office, said Sudan remains adamant that the force must comprise mainly African troops.

Vice-President Kiir, intelligence chief discuss north-south peace

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring* – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) The first vice-president of the republic and the president of the Government of Southern Sudan, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, assessed yesterday in Juba with the National Security and Intelligence, Lt. Gen. Salah Abdallah, the appropriate ways to support infrastructure of the south to consolidate the peace process.

During the meeting, the two agreed to remove obstacles in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the issues of the security arrangements and the Abyei region.

Kiir calls on ministries of water resources to coordinate activities

(*SudanTribune.com* – 7 Aug. JUBA) There has been no a coherent regulatory framework to guide utilization and management of water resources in southern Sudan, president of southern Sudan has said.

However, president Kiir says the interim constitution of southern Sudan provides the government of southern Sudan with basic regulations and strategies to guide aspects of resources mobilization for the welfare of the people without jeopardizing environmental integrity.

In a speech read on his behalf by Dr. Luka Monoja, GoSS minister of cabinet affairs, today at Juba Hotel, Kiir said water resource mobilization is vital for realization of peace dividend that puts the government commitment to reconstruction and promotion of economic growth of southern Sudan. [[Read more ...](#)].

Minister of Justice orders reduction in number of pending cases in prisons

(*AllIntibaha* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Minister of Justice has ordered a reduction in numbers of inmates in Omdurman Prison with cases pending trial from 1,633 to 25.

In press statements yesterday after a tour of the prison that the judicial bodies are exerting efforts to serve justice but there are a number of difficulties entailed that include failure of witnesses to appear before court and other legal processes.

Sudan in dock over Darfur fugitives: ICC prosecutor

(*SudanTribune.com* – 7 Aug. CANBERRA) The Sudanese government must hand over for trial of the man accused of masterminding the Darfur massacre or risk becoming a pariah nation, the International Criminal Court (ICC) chief prosecutor said on Tuesday.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, speaking after Darfur rebel groups agreed on a common platform for peace negotiations with Khartoum, said any peace deal would have to respect international law and ICC warrants for the arrest of Sudanese minister Ahmad Harun.

"Sudan cannot be a pariah country. They know it is important. The government needs legitimacy, so they will respect the law," Moreno-Ocampo told Reuters during a visit to Australia. [[Read more ...](#)].

Sudan has commission to give southerners government jobs

(*Reuters* – 7 Aug. JUBA) Sudan has formed a long-delayed commission to ensure southerners get at least 20 percent of civil service jobs as promised under a north-south peace deal, a southern official said on Tuesday.

Awut Deng, south Sudan's public service minister, said few southerners had found jobs in the central government bureaucracy since the January 2005 peace deal which ended Africa's longest civil war.

Deng said the commission, created last month, meant there was now a mechanism in place to give 20-30 percent of civil service jobs to southerners who, like many in Sudan, say they are marginalized by the northern-dominated government. [[Read more ...](#)].

Sudanese workers abroad demand participation in elections

(*SMC* – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudanese workers abroad said they will submit a memo to President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir demanding legal rights for participation in the forthcoming elections at all levels.

The memo should call for including Sudanese expatriates in the census process for the year 2007 upon which elections record will be based.

Sudan, Ethiopia seek to boost energy cooperation

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring* - 6 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudan's Ministry of Energy and Mining and Ethiopia have begun steps to boost cooperation between them in the interest of the two nations, especially in the electrical power and petroleum fields.

Minister of Energy and Mining Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz hailed the progress of the relations between Sudan and Ethiopia in all domains and said cooperation will not be confined to the electricity and oil domains but will expand to cover various domains.

SAF completes establishment of barracks for the 19th Battalion at Meroe Dam

(*AlAyaam* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Ministry of Defense has vowed to protect the Meroe Dam project in Northern State as it is an important economic project for the country.

The SAF has announced completion of the establishment of the barracks for the 19th Infantry Battalion in Meroe and says it will officially be inaugurated by the President of the Republic on the 14th of this month alongside other projects as the SAF marks its 53rd anniversary.

The battalion will basically be responsible for safeguarding the site.

Violent clashes between police and citizens in Gireif East

(*Rai AlShaab* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) Clashes yesterday morning between citizens and police in Gireif East have left many people injured.

The police had come in to intervene when citizens residing on the eastern side of the new bridge connecting Gireif East to Khartoum (the Manshiya area) blocked the bridge to traffic.

Sources say citizens have for a while voiced concerns regarding the safety of their children as they dodged speeding vehicles to cross the wide roads at the tip of the bridge on their way to school or home. Last week a schoolboy was knocked down by a speeding vehicle while on his way to school and died on spot. A similar incident occurred this week. The drivers of both vehicles sped on without stopping and could not be identified. Citizens have demanded that the relevant authorities commission tunnels for safe passage across the road.

GoSS

South Sudan to demobilize 25,000 soldiers

(*Reuters* – 7 Aug. JUBA) Southern Sudan will begin to demobilize some 25,021 soldiers, but full support packages for former combatants are not assured yet because of U.N. funding delays, a southern official said on Tuesday.

Under a north-south peace deal signed in January 2005 that ended Africa's longest civil war, separate north and south Sudan armies were created. Both agreed to reduce their troop counts.

Arop Moyak Monyoc, head of south Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) commission, said they had been relying on the United Nations to provide packages including seeds and tools to help soldiers reintegrate into society.

"The serious issue is reintegration. What is going to be their livelihood?" said Monyoc.

The soldiers to be demobilized cost the semi-autonomous southern government \$5 million a month in salaries. Monyoc said registration of the soldiers to be demobilized would begin whether or not the U.N. DDR body, which had promised support packages, is ready to assist, but he criticized them for being too slow.

"We are starting without them," said Monyoc. "They can join us when they're ready... They are too slow, too much bureaucracy, everything must go to New York."

A senior U.N. official in south Sudan declined to comment.

Monyoc said it was still unclear what the minimum demobilization package would be for the demobilized soldiers, as the commission had been relying on the U.N. packages.

SPLA spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol said the extra soldiers were blocking modernization of the army.

"Instead of buying equipment to make us a modern army we are paying these soldiers," he said. [[Full text ...](#)].

Construction begins for new university in Rumbek

(*SudanTribune.com* – 6 Aug. RUMBOK) The construction of the first six faculties of Rumbek University will start next month. This follows a decree last year by the President of the Republic to form the university ... bringing to four the number of Southern Sudanese universities.

Al-Bashir said he hoped that the new university will bring happiness to Lakes State citizens and make them more involved in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The university will initially be using the facilities at Rumbek Senior Secondary school that once schooled dozens of well-known Southern Sudanese politicians and later relocate to a site that community leaders, elders and intellectuals of Lakes State are still discussing.

The proposed university will have the colleges of medicine, Engineering, Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Education and the Social Sciences.

The secretary of the technical committee for establishment of the university, Mr. Mabor Dhuol Mabor told Sudan Tribune that about five billion pounds (5.Bn SPDs) have been allocated for the university by the Government of National Unity (GONU).

Gemtel installs 'illegal' satellite dish

(*The East African* – 7 Aug. NAIROBI) The controversial interconnection agreement between Uganda Telecom and Southern Sudan's Gemtel phone company took a new twist last week when it emerged that the two have quietly installed a satellite dish for the latter at one of Uganda's most sensitive communications facilities.

The news came a few days after a committee of Uganda's parliament asked Interpol to investigate the Southern Sudan company, which has an irregular interconnection agreement with UTL under which its subscribers use Uganda's international gateway prefix, 256, as this newspaper revealed last month.

The EastAfrican has now learnt that Gemtel could have illegally set up a satellite dish at the Mpoma international gateway and satellite earth station, a sensitive government-owned facility in Mukono district, 21 kilometres from Kampala city. Mpoma, which was set up during Idi Amin's regime, is the nerve centre of Uganda's satellite connections with the rest of the world. [[Read more ...](#)].

Darfur:

Some reactions to Arusha:

SLM-MM reveals secret talks to convince AbdulWahid to join the peace process

(*Rai AlShaab* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Minnawi faction of the SLM/A has described the Arusha consultations as a step in the right direction.

Spokesperson el-Tayeb Khamis said that the absence of SLM founder AbdelWahid Nur from Arusha does have an impact on the process. He revealed that they have been in contact with AbdelWahid in an effort to convince him to come on board.

The SLM-MM spokesperson said that they are now in talks with AbdelWahid to convince him to participate in the envisaged meeting with the government expected to take place within three months. He said the situation in Darfur would not bear that a movement be left out of the talks.

He expressed fears that the government side may not have a sincere will for the talks with the movements and called upon government to provide guarantees. He pointed out that the government is used to pushing for partial solutions and splitting the ranks of the rebel movements.

Egypt proposes to host Darfur peace talks

(Radio Omdurman via BBC Monitoring – 7 Aug. KHARTOUM) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit has welcomed the positive results of the Arusha meeting aimed at consolidating the Darfur rebel movements' position, and considered a fundamental step towards achieving peace in the region.

Aboul Gheit confirmed his country's readiness to provide the necessary support, including hosting the forthcoming peace talks if the concerned parties wish it.

Egyptian news agency, *MENA*, also reports that the Arab League has welcomed the consensus reached in Arusha.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ambassador at the Arab League, Ahmad Bin-Hilli, maintains that Sudan's approval to the deployment of hybrid African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur constituted a good base for the Arusha talks.

Egyptian radio lauded the consensus in Arusha but the commentary ended on two main concerns that are still viable. The first one is the Sudanese government's interpretation to the amendments made to the UNSC resolution as "presevering the sovereignty and unity of the Sudanese soil as well as diluting the threatening tone that was present in the first drafts of the resolution. The other matter seemed to be "the continuation of having special agendas for international and regional parties that are backing some rebel factions." [*The Undersecretary at Sudan's foreign ministry, Dr. Mutrif Sidiq, had earlier said that Resolution 1769 affirmed Sudan's sovereignty and abrogated UNSCR 1706*].

EU says rebel talks take Darfur closer to peace

(Reuters – 7 Aug. BRUSSELS) The European Union on Tuesday hailed an agreement among Darfur rebel factions, saying it had taken the region a significant step closer to peace.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana called the outcome of the meeting in Arusha brokered by the African Union and the United Nations "very encouraging".

"The prospect of peace in Darfur has moved a significant step closer," he said in a statement. "The common position among essential non-signatory movements is an achievement, which

holds the promise of peace negotiations in the coming months."

Solana pledged that the European Union would continue strong support for the peace process and urged the rebel movements and the government to live up to their commitments. [[Full text ...](#)].

Humanitarian:

US Senator calls for release of Darfur rebel leader

(*SudanTribune.com* – 7 Aug. WASHINGTON) US senator Russ Feingold (WI) called on the US administration to pressure Khartoum for the release of a rebel leader.

Suleiman Jamous, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) humanitarian coordinator, has been virtually imprisoned for 13 months in the South Kordofan region bordering Darfur. Khartoum has branded him a terrorist

Senator Feingold in a letter to US special envoy Andrew Natsios described Jamous as "uniquely qualified qualified to serve as a bridge between all parties to the negotiations".

This week US actress Mia Farrow wrote a letter to Sudan's president Omar Al-Bashir offering to swap places with Jamous.

However US state department spokesman Tom Casey described the offer as "naive" and said that it would not help.

Yesterday Sudan said it will allow Jamous to be moved without risk of arrest if the international community guarantees he will not rejoin armed rebels in Darfur

Political:

Secretary-General of Communist Party calls for demobilization of the Janjaweed

(*AlAyaam* – 8 Aug. NYALA) The Secretary-General of the Sudan Communist Party has called for the formation of active mechanisms that guarantee the demobilization of the Janjaweed militias and a just participation in power for the people of Darfur.

Mohamed Nugud was on an unprecedented tour of Darfur during which he visited the Direij IDP camp near Nyala, addressed a rally at a public square in Nyala town and held talks with a number of local and tribal leaders of South Darfur.

Nugud also pointed out that international resolutions on Darfur will only be complete with the consolidation of justice and called for a trial for the perpetrators of crime in Darfur. He also called on those armed factions that did not participate at the Arusha consultations to join the peace process.

The leader of the Communist Party is set to hold a meeting with representatives of the NCP on request of the latter.

Security:

17 killed and injured in new wave of Rizeigat-Turjum clashes

(*AlSahafa* – 8 Aug. NYALA) Six people – a policeman and five Turjum tribesmen– were killed and 11 Turjum tribesmen injured in clashes with the Rizeigat at Sani Dileiba, South Darfur.

The local county commissioner attributed the clashes to changes in the nomad migration routes. The Turjum had blocked the route and the Rizeigat herdsmen had to force their way through. Regular forces intervened to calm the situation and the policeman fell as a result.