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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Authorities bar reporters from accompanying Jan Eliasson on his tour of Darfur

(*AlSudani* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) Civil Aviation authorities at the Khartoum International Airport barred yesterday a group of reporters and media persons from accompanying United Nations Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, on his tour of the states of South and West Darfur.

United Nations Mission in Sudan Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told *AlSudani* that United Nations Mission in Sudan officials at the airport were told by the Civil Aviation Authority at the airport of the decision to bar reporters from boarding the United Nations Mission in Sudan flight. She said that the mission will be following up on this issue with the Sudanese authorities through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Director-General at the Khartoum International Airport, Lt. Gen. Yusif Ibrahim, has however denied any knowledge of reporters accompanying the Special Envoy.

The Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority, Mjr. Gen. AbuBakar Jaafar, says that they had earlier issued a decree barring non-UNMIS personnel from boarding United Nations Mission in Sudan flights and that the decision was taken when they learnt that UNMIS was being paid by citizens for these flights.

He blames UNMIS for the incident and pointed out that UNMIS did not request prior permission for these reporters to accompany Mr. Eliasson as had happened with the UK minister (?). He went on to say that the decision to bar non-United Nations personnel from traveling on United Nations flights was in the interest of local carriers especially the national carrier, Sudan Airways. He pointed out that these carriers had been complaining that they were losing passengers to United Nations Mission in Sudan flights and that this has negatively affected their operations and brought them much loss.

UN Envoy Urges Sudanese Rebel Leaders to Participate in Peace Talks

(*VoA*) The U.N. envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, says he fears the start of what he calls "a new and dangerous phase" in the four-year-old conflict in western Sudan unless all warring parties take part in a United Nations-African Union mediated political process. As VOA correspondent Alisha Ryu reports from our East Africa Bureau in Nairobi, the absence of two important rebel leaders from that process is hampering efforts to reach a final agenda for peace talks with the Sudanese government, due to begin in two months.

Speaking to VOA by telephone from Sudan's capital Khartoum, the U.N. Darfur envoy says he is pleased that three days of unity talks in Arusha, Tanzania succeeded in the goal of producing a common platform among more than a dozen quarreling Darfur factional leaders.

"All movement leaders came, except one, and this is the most representative meeting we have had since the Abuja talks last year," he said

Eliasson says he remains hopeful that AbdulWahid Nur will join the others at the negotiating table. The rebel leader's participation in the political process is considered crucial because he has a huge following among Darfur's largest tribe, the Fur.

"There is a chair available and the door is open for Abdel Wahid. I hope that the rebel leaders and the field commanders who were in Arusha with us will communicate to Abdel Wahid and to the people of Darfur that we have a meaningful and serious process," he added.

The U.N. envoy says he believes every effort must be made to bring all of the leaders together and quickly find an end to the bloodshed in Darfur.

"If we do not take this opportunity now, I am worried about the frustration and anger in the camps that could take different forms," he noted. "I worry about tribal clashes that are going on right now. And I worry about settlers taking over land, which is owned by other people. This will mean that we may enter a new dangerous phase of the situation in Darfur. So, here is a crucial time."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is expected in Khartoum Saturday to discuss ways to move the Darfur peace process forward.

Sudan vaccinates 4.9 mln after neighbors report polio

(Reuters – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudan has vaccinated 4.9 million children in the north after reports of polio cases in neighboring Chad triggered fear of transmission across the border, a U.N. official said on Wednesday.

The U.N. children's agency (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) funded and trained some 40,000 personnel to vaccinate children under the age of five, Edward Cawardine, a senior UNICEF official said.

"What's unique is it's an additional campaign that we've put together with the ministry of health because of the reports of some cases in Chad," Cawardine told Reuters, adding it was a swift three-day campaign.

Sudan's Darfur region, hit by a four-year-old revolt, borders Chad. Heavy rains and floods throughout the country have also raised fears that epidemics could spread. There have not been any reported cases of polio in Sudan since 2005 but UNICEF and WHO carry out regular mass vaccination campaigns in the country, Cawardine added.

Cawardine said the campaign was also unable to reach the region of Adila in South Darfur due to heavy fighting.

The WHO says its Global Polio Eradication Initiative, launched in 1988, has reduced the number of polio cases worldwide from 350,000 in 125 endemic countries in 1951 to 337 reported cases so far in 2007.

UN Security Council to hold session on Darfur 9 August - Sudanese radio

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring* – 8 Aug.) The UN Security Council will hold a session tomorrow Thursday 9 August to evaluate the outcome of the Arusha meetings of the non-signatories to the Abuja agreement on Darfur.

During a radio interview, Sudan Permanent Ambassador to the UN Abdel-Mahmud Abdel-Halim has said that the government's acceptance of the results of the meetings has been taken positively by the Council members.

Abdel-Halim added that the Sudanese mission [at the UN] had established wide contacts and held consultations with the Council members dealing with this matter.

At the same time, Abdel-Halim has held discussions with the head of the hybrid operation in Darfur, Gen Martin Agwai, on the results of his recent visit to Sudan.

For his part, Agwai has hailed the level of cooperation he received from the government officials and confirmed that he would fully cooperate with the government and would be transparent to reach peace in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Defense minister says UNSCR 1769 does not restrict SAF movement

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) In a briefing yesterday to senior military officers, the Minister of Defense said that the Sudan accepted UNSCR 1769 in the framework of cooperation with the international community.

He said that the resolution does not infringe on national sovereignty and does not put constraints to the movements of the SAF as it carries out its defense duties in the country.

Interior minister forms committee to deal with UNSCR 1769

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Minister of Interior has instructed the formation of a committee to be headed by police Mjr. Gen. Mohamed Osman Mohamed Nour to handle issues related to UNSCR 1769 (the hybrid force).

Undersecretary Muttrif Sidiq of the foreign ministry says the resolution marks the end of a stage and the beginning of another. He said that the hybrid forces, once deployed, will be based in el-Fasher and will also have an office in Addis Ababa.

Reports say meanwhile that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Professor Alpha Oumar Konare, will arrive in Khartoum next week for talks with government officials on the enhancement of the African role in the hybrid operations.

Reports of migration of Arab tribes into Darfur are baseless, says state minister

(*AlSahafa* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) State Minister for the Interior, Alieu Ajang, has revealed that a committee has been formed of the Commission for Refugees (government body) and the UNHCR to investigate UNHCR reports of the resettlement of tens of thousands of Chadian Arabs in parts of Darfur.

He pointed out that the reports about an organized migration of Arab elements from Niger, Chad and the CAR are baseless. He noted however that the migration of nomadic tribes of these areas across the region is a century old occurrence. He accused parties he did not name of trying to portray the issue as an organized resettlement of Janjaweed groups.

Sudan says will free Darfur rebel Jamous for talks

(*Reuters*) Sudan said on Thursday it would lift a threat to arrest Darfur rebel figure Suleiman Jamous when peace talks start to end more than four years of conflict.

"When there are real talks for sure he will be set free," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ali Karti told Reuters. He declined to say whether there would be conditions on his release.

"At that time we will see if there are any conditions or if we don't need to make any conditions. That is something to be considered at the right time," Karti said.

SAF, SPLA to finalize reintegration of OAGs

(*Sudan Vision*) The Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), assigned with the settlement of the issue of reintegration of OAGs cites 23rd August, 2007 as the deadline for finally resolving that issue.

Deputy Chairman of the committee, Brigadier Mursal Steven Babanin, says that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process regarding OAGs that joined the SPLA had been completed immediately after the signing of the CPA.

Babanin further stated that the Sub-Committee will tomorrow visit, Malakal town to monitor the reintegration measurements applied by SPLA in the military or civil service. He revealed that the total number of forces belonging to the Armed Groups subject to reintegration has reached 44 thousand combatants.

According to him, following the reviewing of the measures adopted by SAF and SPLA in respect of the issue, the joint meeting scheduled for Aug.23rd will issue a communiqué announcing the completion of the reintegration process on both sides.

Parties to the CPA postpone executive meeting

(*AlAyaam* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) A scheduled meeting yesterday of the executive committees of the parties to the CPA was postponed indefinitely due to the absence of a member of the NCP team.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar who leads the SPLM delegation said they had decided that the SPLM team return to Juba and leave behind their leader until they receive confirmation of a new date for the meeting. He said the SPLM delegation will return to Khartoum once a new date is set.

Drop in crime rates in Khartoum

(*AlSahafa* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Director of CID at Khartoum State Police says the Combat Crime week that kicked off on the 5th of this month and ends today has contributed to a marked decrease in crime rates in the capital.

He said that the police have arrested 668 people in two days on charges of possession of drugs and of personification

Sudan describes Mia Farrow's letter as 'Silly'

(*SudanTribune.com* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government dismissed a letter by US actress Mia Farrow calling for the release of a rebel leader.

Farrow sent a letter this week to Al-Bashir offering to swap places with Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) humanitarian coordinator, given his deteriorating health condition and his pivotal role in uniting rebel groups.

Jamous, 62-year-old had been detained by Minni Minawi on 20 May 2006 after his opposition to Darfur Peace Agreement.

The former UN special envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk had obtained his release on 22 June 2006 and transported him to Kadugli in a UNMIS hospital for medical treatment; but also to protect him from Minawi.

An unidentified Sudanese official speaking to Al-Sahafa daily refused to comment on Farrow's letter saying it was "silly" and does not deserve a response.

US sends flood relief supplies to Sudan

(*US Embassy* – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The United States Government today airlifted 1300 rolls of plastic sheeting that will help provide shelter for 78,000 individuals in the flood-affected areas of northern and eastern Sudan. The material is valued at over one-half million U.S. dollars.

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez requested the U.S. assistance saying, "The U.S. Government is pleased to provide additional shelter materials to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the recent flooding. The U.S. continues to be committed to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan."

The Undersecretary for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Charles Manyang, accepted the material on behalf of the Government of Sudan, and expressed his gratitude to the U.S. and its partners.

This plastic sheeting will be distributed via the Common Humanitarian Pipeline, a quick-response distribution network established in 2004 and managed by the U.N. Joint Logistics Centre with support from UNICEF and the non-governmental organization CARE International.

Speaking on behalf of the Common Pipeline partners, UNICEF Representative Ted Chaiban recognized the importance of effective collaboration, saying "In emergencies, it is critical that there is a speedy and appropriate response to meet immediate needs. This is being achieved in Sudan's flood-affected regions, because the Government, the international community, the UN and the non-governmental organizations have worked together. We remain committed to this spirit of partnership, to better serve those affected by this emergency."

Cd'A at the US Embassy says the embassy has received no visa requests from MPs

(*AlSudani* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM) The Charge d’Affaires at the US Embassy in Khartoum says the embassy has received no requests from parliamentarians for entry visas to the US to visit Sudanese inmates at Guantanamo Bay.

He says the embassy has received no formal request to that end from the National Assembly.

This comes in the wake of recent reports that the US embassy had refused to grant visas to a parliamentary delegation that wished to travel to the US.

Ex-mediator for south-north peace urges southerners to remain vigilant

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring* – 8 Aug. NAIROBI) The chief mediator of the process that led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA], General Lazarus Sumbeiywo, says Sudanese must claim "the rights that belong to you."

Speaking to the South Sudan Women's League on Saturday in Juba, General Sumbeiywo said negotiating the CPA was not easy so people should not expect implementing the CPA to be easy. He described Sudan's history of oppression as a "very strong tide" and said southern Sudanese must fight for freedom and security.

GoSS

130 killed and injured in clashes in Pibor

(*AlIntibaha* – 9 Aug. PIBOR) About 30 people were killed and more than 100 others injured in a the biggest clash in Southern Sudan since the Malakal incident.

The clash took place between Murle tribesmen and members of a militia group the GoSS is yet to disarm and at Likongili, 35 kilometers north of Pibor County.

The GoSS Minister of the Interior and Police said he will be sending a team to the area to investigate the causes of the clash.

Southern Sudan releases journalist after ten hours detention

(*SudanTribune.com* – 8 Aug. Juba) The resident magistrate of Juba has released Nhial Bol, the Editor-in-Chief of The Citizen Newspaper from police detention because there was no summon of arrest either from Juba or Khartoum, said the Attorney General.

According to Nhial Bol, Juba police brought to him a letter requesting him to report to police station and on reporting, police detained him as from 9am to 7pm. He was charged under Sudan penal code of 2003 section 66/27/29/37. Juba police cited a summons filed for his arrest from Khartoum by Aleiu Ayeng Aleiu, State minister of Interior in the Government of National Unity.

The state minister has opened a libel case concerning stories published by the Citizen about a car purchase scandal. The incriminated contract was at the cost of 76 million US dollar and the GoSS former minister of finance Arthur Akuen is implicated in the case. [[Read more ...](#)].

Kenyans arrested over Sh140m theft in Juba

(The Daily Nation – 8 Aug. NAIROBI) Two Kenyans are being held in Southern Sudan over the disappearance of Sh140 million, in one of the biggest heists involving a Kenyan bank.

The money in US dollars was being transported to the Juba branch of Kenya Commercial Bank when it disappeared nearly a week ago.

Speaking in Nairobi, the bank's head of corporate affairs, Mr. Kepha Bosire, said the car transporting the cash from Juba Airport was intercepted by robbers, who snatched one bag containing \$2 million, leaving another with \$1 million.

The official said the bank's operations in South Sudan were continuing smoothly despite the arrests. Emphasizing that it was not a loss to the bank as the money was insured, Mr Bosire said the matter was being investigated by the Sudanese authorities.

The Southern Sudan liaison officer (embassy representative) to Kenya, Mr John Andruga said two Kenyans and a Sudanese national had been put on remand to assist with investigations following the loss of US\$2 million. [[Read more ...](#)].

Darfur

Humanitarian:

US Berkeley scientists work scrap metal for Darfur

(Reuters – 8 Aug. BERKELEY, California) Researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California have created a device that, though it can be built out of scrap metal, has the potential to alleviate suffering for some of the 2.2 million displaced people in Sudan's troubled Darfur region.

The device is a wood-fired stove, meant to replace the traditional campfire over which the refugees — mostly women and children — typically boil water and cook powdered grain into bread.

The thermal physics behind the stove seem impressive: the group says the device is nearly four times more efficient than a traditional "three-stone" fire. [[Read more ...](#)].

Political:

French envoy visits Darfur, supports peace process

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) The French Ambassador to Sudan, who is currently visiting the capital of North Darfur State, Al-Fashir, was received by its Wali (governor), Uthman Muhammad Yusuf Kibr, and affirmed her country's support to the peace process in Darfur, in the framework of the united Sudan.

The Ambassador pointed out that the French President is giving great concern to the situation in Darfur and announced her country's readiness to contribute to development and reconstruction programs, as well as realization of reconciliation in Darfur.

Meanwhile, the Wali of the state welcomed the visit of the French Ambassador to the state.

He reviewed the efforts which are being exerted by the state government for boosting the stability, security and humanitarian work, affirming that his state is witnessing a big voluntary return of the displaced people to their home areas.

Presidential aide, EU envoy discuss Darfur peace

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring – 8 Aug. KHARTOUM) Presidential Advisor Mustapha Osman reviewed on Wednesday with the new Representative of the European Union to the Sudan, Torben Brylle, the outcome of the Arusha meeting that brought together the non-signatory factions of the Darfur Peace Agreement signed in Abuja.

The meeting held at the headquarters of the National Congress reviewed the developments of the situation in Darfur as well as the role that the EU could play to complete the political process and to help with the rehabilitation and the development of areas affected by the war.

Isma'il pointed out in press statements following the meeting that he has reaffirmed to the EU representative the importance of intensifying the European efforts for beginning of negotiation at the time set pointing out to the commitment of the Sudanese government to the date set by the Arusha meetings for the beginning of the talks with the Darfur factions despite the view of the government which believes that the negotiations should have been held earlier as set by the Tripoli meetings.

Dr Mustafa Uthman Isma'il has meanwhile reaffirmed the government backing for the political efforts exerted to convince all movements to join in the negotiations.

He said the meeting also reviewed the question of Abd al-Wahid Nur, the leader of the rebel SLA [Sudan Liberation Army] faction.

Security:

Interior minister visits war-torn Adilah

(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring – 8 Aug.) Interior Minister el-Zubair Bashir Taha has acquainted himself with the security situation in Southern Darfur State in his visit that was concluded today.

He discussed the security situation of the state with the State Security committee.

The ministers also visited Adilah which was attacked by the Justice and Equality Movement.

5 dead in latest Rizeigat-Turjum clashes ... Arab tribes reject TDRA mediation

(*AlAyaam; Allintibaya* – 9 Aug. KHARTOUM; NYALA) Five people have been killed, among them two children, in the latest attack on the Turjum by Rizeigat tribesmen in Ammar Jadeed, 5 kilometers from el-Geneina.

An eyewitness says about 500 armed men participated in the clashes. The eyewitness points out that the attackers had erected a wayside tent to monitor Turjum movements on the Nyala-Thani Dileiba route.

A prominent member of the Turjum briefed the Secretary-General of the Communist Party who is currently touring the region on the tribal clashes that started in January this year. He blamed the government for being silent on and doing nothing to curb the conflict.

Nugud was expected to meet Rizeigat representatives later.

The opposition Umma Party also issued a statement yesterday calling for calm and blaming the government for allowing the clashes to continue.

Allintibaha meanwhile reports that elders of the Arab tribes in the region have turned down an offer by the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority to mediate between the two warring tribes. They accused the TDRA of partiality and demanded instead information on the fate of 70 people they claim SLM-MM abducted earlier and that of 3,000 heads of livestock SLM-MM rustlers stole and sold in the livestock markets of Libya and Chad and said the SLA is responsible for destroying much of their land.

They turned down a request for audience from an emissary of the movement.

Rebels say Sudan aircraft shot down

A rebel group in Sudan's Darfur region say they have shot down a Sudanese military aeroplane which they claim was bombing civilian areas in the region.

A spokesman at the defense ministry in Khartoum, however, denied the report saying he could not confirm any aircraft was missing. Local press reports quote the spokesman as saying that they had no MiG 29s in the area.

Commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr from the Justice and Equality and Movement (JEM), said: "We have downed a plane - a MiG 29 - around 4.5km south of Adila yesterday around 5pm."

Adila is in the far east of South Darfur. Last week the government had accused the rebels of attacking the government-controlled town.

"We are looking for the pilot," said Ashr. "We have the body of the plane."

The United Nations and the African Union (AU), both of which are monitoring a shaky ceasefire in Sudan's arid west, also could not confirm the report. [[Read more ...](#)].

Miscellaneous:

HRW urges Egypt to probe killing of Sudanese migrants

(*SudanTribune.com* – 8 Aug. WASHINGTON) Egyptian authorities should immediately investigate, with a view to prosecution, allegations that Egyptian border guards killed three Sudanese nationals trying to cross the Egypt-Israeli border, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday in a letter to the Egyptian Minister of Interior.

Israeli media reported statements by Israeli border guards who witnessed the killing of the Sudanese refugees by Egyptian border guards beating and shooting the migrants.

Ha'aretz reported that the soldier said that he saw Egyptian border guards open fire, killing one and wounding a second. The guards then beat the wounded man and a third migrant, the soldier said: "We saw them gang up on them and beat them on the ground until they stopped moving... They killed two men with their own hands and with sticks and rocks. We heard them crying and screeching in pain until they died." Egypt has not acknowledged that anyone was killed, according to an August 5 Associated Press report. [[Read more ...](#)].