

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 30 August 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

*NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

**IN THE NEWS TODAY:****➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Former UN envoy slams EU for apologizing to Sudan
- UN official raps Sudan for expelling CARE envoy
- Ki-Moon arrives in Khartoum Monday, visits South Sudan, Darfur

**➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- World Bank, Sudan finance projects to develop war affect areas Sudan criticizes plans for EU-U.N. force in Chad and CAR
- Sudan's oil shipment normal despite floods -China
- Sudan Okays appointment of new UN envoy
- Sudan says UN appeal for flood assistance is too late
- Sudan Security Head Gosh to mediate in Chadian peace talks
- Military protocol between Sudan and CAR to secure boarders
- Sudan allows detained Umma leader to meet lawyers

**➤ GoSS**

- Kenya to send more teachers to south Sudan
- Speaker wants separate foreign policy for GoSS

**➤ Darfur**

- Darfur rebel JEM seizes Sudanese army base in Wad Banda in North Kordofan
- SPLM to meet DPA non- signatories mid September
- JEM calls for meeting for rebel movements and IDPs before beginning of peace talks
- AU Peace and Security Council to announce today details of contribution to hybrid operation
- Menawi and North Darfur Wali Discuss Humanitarian and Security Situation

**➤ Miscellaneous**

- Canada to expel Sudan diplomat in tit-for-tat move

# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### **Former UN envoy slams EU for apologizing to Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. PARIS) Jan Pronk the former special representative of the UN Secretary General to Sudan has criticized the European Union for offering an apology to Khartoum over the action of the EU envoy to Sudan.

In an interview with Radio France International on Wednesday, Jan Pronk described the EU apology to Sudan as "mistake" and "counterproductive". He further said "there is nothing to apologize for; the diplomat just did his job."

Kent Degerfelt, EU representative to Sudan, was declared persona non grata last week along with Nuala Lawlor Canadian chargé d'affaires for what Khartoum presented as "interfering" in Sudan's affairs. However, last Saturday Sudan invited the EU envoy back alleging that Louis Michel, the European development commissioner, had apologized to Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir.

Pronk said he was surprised by the move of the EU towards the Sudanese government. He argued that this apology will constitute a precedent in the relations between the EU and Sudan.

He also said that Sudanese have succeeded to divide the EU and Canada.

The former envoy said that Sudan needs the EU for its humanitarian assistance and for its political support.

### **UN official raps Sudan for expelling CARE envoy**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. UNITED NATIONS) A top U.N. official on Wednesday criticized Sudan for undermining an agreement on humanitarian access by expelling the country director of the large aid organization CARE from Darfur.

U.N. Undersecretary-General John Holmes, the humanitarian coordinator, said that the expulsion "clearly undermined both the letter and the spirit" of a joint communiqué he signed earlier this year with the Khartoum government on facilitating humanitarian activities in Darfur.

Holmes, in a statement, said that the joint communiqué had "relieved many bureaucratic impediments to our work, for which we are grateful.

"However, issues such as those now faced by CARE are a disturbing example of how far we still have to go," Holmes said. "Enabling Mr. Barker to resume his important work would send a positive signal to the international community that the

Government of Sudan wishes to further strengthen its partnership with humanitarian actors."

### **Ki-Moon arrives in Khartoum Monday and descusses expelling diplomats with Kiir and Al Bashir**

(*Sudan vision, Alwan*) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will arrive in Khartoum coming Monday and head for Juba, South Sudan on Tuesday for talks with the FVP, and President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir.

The talks will focus on the progress of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation. The UNSG is scheduled to hold a press conference at the end of his visit to Juba.

Meanwhile during his visit to Sudan, Ki Moon will fly to Darfur to see to himself the reality on the ground and then return to Khartoum for talks with senior Sudanese officials on the hybrid operation and other related issues.

In the meantime, *Alayam* reported that Canada has announced that it would expel a diplomat from the Embassy of Sudan in Ottawa on Saturday, in response to expulsion of Sudan to Canada's charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

The UN accused Sudan of undermining an agreement on humanitarian access by expelling the country director of the large aid organization CARE from Sudan.

Asked about the expulsions at a press conference on Tuesday, UN Secretary – General Ban Ki Moon said he would raise the issue with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir and Vice- President Silva Kiir when he meets them next week.

"I'm going to reiterate the strong commitment of the United Nations to help those people, to help those who need our support," Ban said. "In that regard, the Sudanese government should fully implement and fully cooperate with those international communities."

Meanwhile, Sudan's Ambassador to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim criticized statements of Ki Moon as regards expulsion of the diplomats advising him not to raise the issue during his planned visit to Sudan.

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **World Bank, Sudan finance projects to develop war affect areas**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. KHARTOUM) Sudan and the World Bank today signed an agreement to finance jointly the first phase of an emergency programme to reconstruct and develop three war affected regions in the country, the WB announced today.

The Sudanese government and the World Bank-administered National Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF-N) today committed to jointly fund two new projects to support

reconstruction and improved service in South Kordofan, North Kordofan, Blue Nile, Sinnar and White Nile States.

An MDTF-N Grant of US\$ 7.9 million and GNU funding of US\$ 6.9 million will finance Phase 1 of the Start-Up/Emergency program of the recovery and development of South Kordofan State which will fund a number of emergency needs in basic services and capacity building.

Phase 1 of the development project in South Kordofan will start in September 2007 and end in December 2008). It aims to provide basic services in improving access to water, improvement of the rural roads, acceleration of humanitarian demining, and provision of basic education and primary health care services, and a vocational training center.

Various partners will participate in the implementation of the project including government agencies (State Ministry of Economy and Investment, South Kordofan State, and relevant line ministries) and UN agencies (UNICEF and UNIDO).

The second MDTF-N Grant of US\$4 million and a GNU contribution of US\$3.7 million will support phase 1 of livestock production and marketing project in two poor and conflict ridden areas in Central and Eastern Sudan in selected localities in North Kordofan, Blue Nile, Sinnar, and White Nile states.

This project aims to improve livelihoods dependant on livestock as a mean to ensure peace dividends, mitigate natural resource-based conflict and improve food security. The project will be implemented by Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries and State Governments.

### **Sudan criticizes plans for EU-U.N. force in Chad and CAR**

*(SudanTribune.com – 29 Aug. KHARTOUM)* The Sudanese government expressed reservations in regard to a proposed plan by the UN and EU to deploy troops in eastern Chad and the northeastern Central African Republic (CAR).

The Sudanese minister for International Cooperation, Al-Tigani Fadeel, told the government sponsored Sudanese Media Center (SMC) that the tripartite security mechanism agreed between Sudan, Chad and CAR dismissed the need for the EU-UN force.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) on Monday gave the European Union and the U.N. the green light Monday to prepare for a military and police deployment to help protect civilians in Chad and the Central African Republic caught in the spillover of the Darfur conflict.

Fadeel hinted that approval of such a force might have a negative impact on the UN-AU hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur.

“The UNSC should have waited until they observe the outcome of the UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur” Fadeel added.

Analysts say that Khartoum is worried that such a force on its border might be used by Western powers for operations inside Darfur such as arresting war crime suspects.

The Sudanese official accused Europeans of having a hidden agenda.

“What the UNSC did was premature and is driven by Europe’s insistence on having a presence in the region” Fadeel said.

### **Sudan’s oil shipment normal despite floods -China**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. BEIJING) Sudan will keep exporting crude at a normal daily rate of around 400,000 barrels till the end of September, as its oilfields are unaffected by the country’s severe floods, a Chinese trader said on Thursday.

State-run Chinese energy giant CNPC is the largest oil investor in the northeastern African country, producing some half million barrels of oil a day, operating two key oilfields — block 1/2/4 and block 3/7.

"The shipment programme shows that floods are not having any impact on exports till end of next month," said the trader, who is familiar with Sudan’s export plans.

"We have not even been told of a 5 percent allowance cut in loading," the official said, referring to a standard tolerance volume widely used by the oil trading community during actual loadings.

A Chinese industry newspaper said last week that both fields had been hit by floods, which Sudanese officials call the worst in living memory, and have claimed 89 lives and destroyed more than 70,000 homes.

### **Sudan Okays appointment of new UN envoy**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. UNITED NATIONS) Sudan has accepted the designation of the current UN Secretary General envoy to Iraq as his special representative in Sudan, a post that has been vacant since a year.

According to the Arabic language AlRai Al-Aam, Khartoum has officially notified the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of its acceptance of Ashraf Qazi nomination.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submitted Qazi’s name to the Sudanese government about two weeks ago, the Associated Press said.

The daily said Qazi would accompany Ban Ki-Moon during his next week visit to Sudan after he was informed of the necessity of acting fast to deal with the situation in Sudan where intensive international interest was being generated due to the situation in Darfur.

Qazi, a Pakistani diplomat who served in key posts around the world including in Washington, was named the top U.N. envoy to Iraq in July 2004.

Ban told a news conference on Tuesday he expected to announce a successor to Pronk in Sudan "a couple of days before my visit takes place to Sudan" next week.

### **Sudan says UN appeal for flood assistance is too late**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. KHARTOUM) A government official on Wednesday lashed out at a U.N. appeal for emergency relief for flood victims in Sudan saying the assistance was coming too late.

The U.N. and its partners on Tuesday appealed for US\$20.2 million (A14.82 million) in humanitarian aid for more than 3 million flood victims in Sudan.

But Gen. Awad Widdaa, head of the Higher Commission for the Alleviation of the Effects of Rains and Floods, said the appeals should have been made much earlier because the disaster started in June and the rainy season is now coming to an end.

"Relief at this stage is like wailing at the dead when the burial ceremony is already over," he said.

Torrential rains have caused flash floods in the east, south and center of the country since mid-June, leaving thousands homeless. Widdaa told The Associated Press that the floods and rains have so far claimed the lives of 101 people and wounded 278.

Widdaa said the Sudanese government has spent US\$25 million (A18.34 million) so far to provide shelter, food and other assistance to the affected families and regions. Other Arab countries have also given Sudan other relief assistance worth US\$50 million (A36.68 million), he said.

The U.N. approved a grant of US\$8.7 million (A6.38 million) from its emergency relief fund on Aug. 17, but on Tuesday, it said US\$34.7 million (A25.46 million) is needed to help those affected by the floods and appealed to donors to help fill the gap.

The U.N. said that the additional money will help an additional 265,000 people who may be directly affected by new flooding, assist in providing chlorinated water to 3.5 million people, "repair the immense damage caused to livelihoods" and rebuild and repair 195 schools and other buildings and homes, it said.

Widdaa suggested that international donors now help Sudan with long-term assistance to help "stave off the effects of the ecological deterioration that brought these types of disasters."

### **Sudan Security Head Gosh to mediate in Chadian peace talks**

(*AlAyam*) Chief of the Sudan National Security and Chief Mediator between the Chadian Government and opposition Gen. Salah Abdallah Gosh said that the chief of the opposition delegation requested more time to study the proposal submitted by the Chadian government.

However, the Chadian Government earlier proposed ceasefire, release of Prisoners of War (PAWs), integrating the rebel forces into the Chadian armed forces and absorbing of rebel movements in senior posts.

The opposition movements demanded the Prime Minister portfolio and the participation of the internal opposition in the on going talks.

*AlAyam* daily reported that the talks will be resumed today evening.

### **Military protocol between Sudan and CAR to secure borders**

(*AlRai AlAam, Alshafa, SUNA*) - Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) have agreed on normalization of their relations and the joint monitoring the borders between the two countries.

President Al-Bashir said in a press statement at Khartoum airport at the conclusion of a two-day visit paid to Sudan by President of the CAR, François Bozizé Wednesday that the visit aimed at restoring the relations to their normal track, pointing out that all aspects of the relations between the two countries were discussed during the visit.

President Al-Bashir added that President Bozizé ordered reopening of the borders between the two countries as a positive reaction to the visit, noting that they agreed on securing and monitoring the borders jointly.

President Bozizé, on his part, affirmed determination to boost the relations between the two countries, expressing his satisfaction over outcome of the visit. He pointed out that they discussed during the visit all issues that concern the two countries.

Meanwhile, Sudan and CAR agreed to reactivate the agreements they signed on securing the borders between the two countries as well as enhancing the military cooperation between the two countries. This came when the visiting President of CAR, received at his residence Wednesday the Minister of Defense, Gen. Abdulrahim Mohamed Hussein.

The Minister said in a statement to SUNA that the meeting discussed the relations between the two countries and reactivation of the two agreements signed between them, referring to the bilateral agreement on securing borders signed in 2004 and the tripartite agreement between Sudan, Chad and CAR signed in 2005 on securing borders with joint forces.

The Minister affirmed that the Sudan and CAR agreed on the issues discussed. He added that President Al-Bashir instructed the enhancement of cooperation with CAR, specially securing the joint borders, in a view that some Sudanese tribes intermingle with other tribes in CAR during draught time.

The Minister explained that the two sides have further touched at promotion of the military relations between the two countries, particularly in fields of training. The two sides also discussed the issues related to poaching in the area besides the issues of refugees in the two countries, saying that Sudan and CAR have identical views on all

issues. Meanwhile, the Ambassador of the CAR Mohamed Bello Abdul-Karim described the visit as successful.

### **Sudan allows detained Umma leader to meet lawyers**

*(SudanTribune.com)* Sudanese opposition politician Mubarak al-Fadil has met his lawyers for the first time since he was detained without charge more than 40 days ago, his advocate Amin Mekki said on Wednesday.

Fadil, the head of the opposition Umma Party for Reform and Renewal, was among 25 people arrested last month, accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

His party's secretary-general Abdel Jalil al-Basha and Ali Mahmoud Hassanein of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) were also detained. None of the 25 has been charged.

"We met him (Fadil). He's in good health," Mekki said. "He's no longer in solitary confinement ... they're all together now."

Fadil was granted a long-needed endoscopy on Saturday after his health deteriorated in prison. His family said then that he was very unwell.

The opposition has said it is concerned authorities are targeting opposition parties ahead of elections due by the end of 2009, and Sima Samar, the U.N. rapporteur for human rights in Sudan, this month urged the government to be more transparent.

Sudanese security officials had accused Fadil of coordinating an attempted coup plot, working alongside retired members of the army, police and security forces.

Fadil's children have joint British-Sudanese citizenship, and Susan Kramer, who represents them in the British parliament, expressed concern at the detention of their father. She said politics should be unhindered ahead of the polls.

### **GoSS**

#### **Kenya to send more teachers to south Sudan**

*(SudanTribune.com – 29 Aug. NAIROBI)* Kenya will send 1,750 more teachers to southern Sudan next year as the vast region attempts to tackle education — a sector that needs to be built from scratch.

Assistant Education Minister Kilemi Mwiria said talks were underway to have 1,500 primary and 200 secondary school teachers and 50 technical institution tutors moved to the region early next year.

"We are making arrangements with the southern Sudan government to ensure the teachers get competitive salary, complete with gratuity," Mwiria was quoted by the local media as saying on Wednesday.



He said details on the schools where the teachers would be deployed would be communicated once the talks are finalized.

The move is likely to draw criticism from the teachers union, Kenya Union of Teachers (Knut), which had opposed an earlier plan to export teachers due to a shortfall of about 60,000 teachers in the east African nation.

But Mwiria was optimistic that the teachers would be given an attractive pay, adding that the southern Sudanese authorities have undertaken to provide adequate security for Kenyans wishing to work, do business and settle in the region.

The east African nation has pledged to be instrumental in southern Sudan's reconstruction process by training its human resources and in the provision of goods and services to the vast region.

### **Speaker wants separate foreign policy for GoSS**

*(The Citizen)* The chorus for the South to break ranks with the national government on the international scene deepened yesterday with the speaker joining those calling for a southern foreign policy independent of Khartoum.

The call has been necessitated by a need to mobilize the international community against Khartoum's refusal to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as scheduled, James Wani Igga told lawmakers yesterday.

Yesterday the speaker said, Khartoum signed the peace deal under the fear of what had happened in Iraq.

"Now our partner is very reluctant to implement the agreement" Igga told lawmakers at a post conflict, reconstruction and regional cooperation workshop organized by Parliament's regional and International Cooperation Committee and Konard Adenauer. "We must intensify our own international policy"

The workshop was the starting point in South Sudan's efforts to intensify its own separate foreign policy, Igga said as he blamed Khartoum for preventing foreign investors by failing to work on security in the region.

The speaker said Khartoum foreign policy which always at odds with the international community was to blame for the southern Sudan not getting loans from international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

### **Darfur**

#### **Darfur rebel JEM seizes Sudanese army base in Wad Banda in North Kordofan**

*(SudanTribune.Com, AlRai AlAam)* a Darfur rebel group said it seized control of a Sudanese army base in neighboring Kordofan province on Wednesday.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters his forces and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Unity faction attacked the army base, some 200 kms (125 miles) from the border with Darfur and held by 1,700 soldiers.

Ibrahim said the attack was in retaliation for government attacks and bombardments in their areas in South Darfur state.

The attack will hinder peace talks due to begin in October. Previous similar attacks have provoked strong retaliation by the army during Darfur's 4-1/2 year conflict.

"This afternoon the JEM branch in North Kordofan and SLA Unity took Wad Banda, a strong army base," he said. A brigade of 1,200 soldiers and 500 central reserve police, a government militia, were based there and had fled the barracks.

"We have prisoners and have taken many vehicles... and ammunitions and weapons. We have small losses and injuries ourselves," he said.

Many rebels groups and commanders agreed a common negotiating platform earlier this month, and agreed to a truce if the government also agreed.

Both sides accuse the other of starting ongoing clashes in South Darfur state. JEM said it had downed a plane that had been bombing the area.

### **SPLM to meet DPA non- signatories mid September**

(*AlRai AlAam*) The SPLM has said that it will bring what it described as the most important leaders of the DPA non-signatories movements to a meeting, scheduled for mid September in the South so that the rebel leaders can agree on a negotiating position for the up coming talks next Nov.

Cabinet Minister at GOSS Dr. Luca Biong stressed that the move came following a meeting in Juba between President of SPLM Silva Kiir and his Deputy Dr. Reiak Machar and the AU Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim in which they agreed to phase out Darfur issue in three stages. He summarized the phases as unifying the movements' positions and then working out a specific vision

### **JEM calls for meeting for rebel movements and IDPs before beginning of peace talks**

(*AlSudani*) The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has called for convening an urgent meeting for the representatives of DPA non-signatory movements, IDPs and civil society organizations prior to negotiations with the government, scheduled to take place in October.

JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein told *AlSudani* daily that the urgent demand is to bring together the armed movements, IDPs and civil society organizations working in the relief field in Darfur states.

He appealed to the international mediators both in the UN and AU to arrange for such a meeting in a bid to allow these parties discuss issues pertinent to the strategic interests of the Darfurians.

Hussein noted that the selection of the joint negotiating team from the various movements was not made in Arousha meeting due to the limited period.

He was optimistic that the movements would reach consensus on agreeing upon unified negotiating delegation in light of the goodwill displayed in Arousha talks.

Hussein called on the government to halt air bombardment on the IDPs camps, abandon sowing tribal sedition and release all detainees.

He urged First Vice-President Silva Kiir to renew his efforts in the context of Just and durable solution to Darfur crisis.

### **AU Peace and Security Council to announce today details of contribution to hybrid operation**

*Sudan Vision, AlRai AlAam, SUNA*, The UN-AU Joint Special Envoy for Darfur, Rudolph Adada asserted the impartiality of the Joint Commission for the hybrid operation, stressing that the Commission targets realization of peace and bridging the gap between Sudanese people.

Adada informed SUNA that he has discussed with the Foreign Minister, Dr. Lam Akol, the executive aspects of the hybrid operation associated with infrastructures, such as residence, airports, mobility of equipments and water, indicating that he has also submitted a memo in that regard to Dr. Akol.

Meanwhile, the official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ali Al Sadig, revealed that a Sudanese committee comprising parties associated with the activities of the Joint Commission is considering means of facilitating the Commission's work, underlining Sudan's commitment to the success of the hybrid operation. He added that efforts are ongoing with western countries, particularly France that has leverage over Abdul Wahid faction to urge them to join the peace process.

In another development, *AlRai AlAam* reported that AU Peace and Security Council holds today (Thursday) a meeting during which the number of forces and the countries participating in the hybrid operation would be disclosed.

### **Menawi and North Darfur Wali Discuss Humanitarian and Security Situation**

SUNA - The Senior Assistant of the President of the Republic and Chairman of the Transitional Regional Darfur Authority (TDRA), Meni Arko Menawi has met the Wali (governor) of North Darfur State, Osman Mohamed Yusif Kibir, at the state's government premises in Al-Fasher city, and reviewed the humanitarian and security situation in the state, besides the progress of the services and development programmes in North Darfur State.

The meeting also discussed issues of mutual concern between the state's government and TDRA, the implementation of the Darfur peace agreement and the arrangements adopted by the state's government to ward off the impacts of the floods and rainfall in the state.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Canada to expel Sudan diplomat in tit-for-tat move**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29 Aug. OTTAWA) A Sudanese diplomat will be expelled from Canada within days in response to the Khartoum government's decision to kick out Canada's acting charge d'affaires, Canada's foreign ministry said Tuesday.

The Foreign Affairs Department said the Sudanese diplomat, who has yet to be identified, will be ordered to leave the country as of Sept. 1. Ministry officials said the diplomat would hold a similar rank to Nuala Lawlor, whom the Sudanese government accused of "meddling in its affairs."

"Canada considers the expulsion of our charge d'affaires to be entirely unjustified. Wherever they are posted, Canada's diplomats will continue to work to uphold Canadian values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law," Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said in a statement.

Canada has already cut off bilateral aid to the Sudanese government and ensures that its aid money flows through the AU mission in that country.

Since 2004 Canada has committed approximately \$441 million Canadian (US\$415 million) toward humanitarian assistance, peace building projects, reconstruction efforts and support for the African Union Mission in Sudan, making it the fourth-largest donor to the mission.

### **Darfur rebel JEM seizes Sudanese army base in Wad Banda in North Kordofan**

(*SudanTribune.Com, AlRai AlAam*) a Darfur rebel group said it seized control of a Sudanese army base in neighboring Kordofan province on Wednesday.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim told Reuters his forces and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Unity faction attacked the army base, some 200 kms (125 miles) from the border with Darfur and held by 1,700 soldiers.

Ibrahim said the attack was in retaliation for government attacks and bombardments in their areas in South Darfur state.

The attack will hinder peace talks due to begin in October. Previous similar attacks have provoked strong retaliation by the army during Darfur's 4-1/2 year conflict.

"This afternoon the JEM branch in North Kordofan and SLA Unity took Wad Banda, a strong army base," he said. A brigade of 1,200 soldiers and 500 central reserve police, a government militia, were based there and had fled the barracks.

"We have prisoners and have taken many vehicles... and ammunitions and weapons. We have small losses and injuries ourselves," he said.

Many rebels groups and commanders agreed a common negotiating platform earlier this month, and agreed to a truce if the government also agreed.

Both sides accuse the other of starting ongoing clashes in South Darfur state. JEM said it had downed a plane that had been bombing the area.

In the meantime, a military communiqué posted at JEM website confirmed that its forces along with SLM (Unity Faction) occupied on Wednesday a garrison town of Wad Banda.

The communiqué said the attacking force inflicted heavy casualties on SAF forces and captured large number of weapons and a number of vehicles. It added that SAF forces, which consist of two battalions, fled the area.

However, SAF garrisons in the areas of Babanusa and Wad Banda are used by SAF as launching pads for attacking unarmed civilians in both Kordofan and Darfur