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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN chief calls for ceasefire in Chad (ST)

February 3, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "profoundly alarmed" by the fighting in Chad, called Sunday for a ceasefire between government and rebel forces there, as the U.N. Security Council began an emergency session on the crisis.

"The secretary-general is profoundly alarmed by the dangerous situation in Chad, particularly in light of the heavy fighting in several parts of the capital city, Ndjamena," Ban's office said in a statement released Sunday.

It added that he is particularly concerned at the deterioration of the serious humanitarian situation of some 285,000 refugees and 180,000 internally displaced persons, as well as host communities, in eastern Chad where the international community is actively engaged in providing life saving relief assistance.

The Security Council meeting got underway at 4:30 p.m. (2130 GMT), as a lull occurred in the fighting between Chad's government forces and rebels battling for control of the capital since Saturday.

The U.N. leader urged all parties "to ensure the safety and security of all civilians as well as international humanitarian workers and United Nations staff in Chad."

"The Secretary General further calls on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and engage in dialogue so as to prevent further bloodshed.

"He appeals to all countries in the region to respect the inviolability of international borders and to prevent any incursions from being launched from within their territory," the statement said.

The Chadian government has accused neighboring Sudan of backing the rebels.

(AFP)

UN Security Council inches closer towards authorizing assistance to Chad (ST)

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: February 04, 2008

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 3, 2008 (AFP) - The UN Security Council Sunday held an emergency session on unrest in Chad as Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged a ceasefire between the government there and rebel forces fighting to topple it.

"The secretary-general is profoundly alarmed by the dangerous situation in Chad, particularly in light of the heavy fighting in several parts of the capital city, Ndjamena," Ban's office said in a statement released Sunday.

In the east, "the international community is actively engaged in providing life saving relief assistance," according to Ban's statement.

France suspended the deployment of a European peacekeeping mission in Chad and the Central African Republic that it is meant to lead.

French troops stationed in Chad have been helping foreigners flee the volatile central African country since the latest violence started.

The EU's Slovenian presidency on Sunday voiced "great concern" and called for an immediate end to the hostilities. The United States on Saturday condemned the rebels' attempts to seize power and called for calm.

Head of Darfur mission says alarmed by Chad's crisis (ST)

February 3, 2008 (EL FASHER) — The UN-AU Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, expressed concern on the deteriorating security situation in Chad and the impact it could have on the situation in Darfur.

The offensive by three rebel Chadian groups has opened up a new conflict next to Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region, and France suspended the deployment of a European peacekeeping mission in Chad and the Central African Republic that it is meant to lead.

In a press statement issued on Sudan, he also regretted the attacks that led to the crippling of humanitarian activities in region and the evacuation of most of UNHCR staff from the town of Guereda in eastern Chad and the series of armed attacks against aid workers.

Adada further said that the African Continent in particular and the international community in general do not wish to see another bloody conflict in the region, and urges all parties to exercise self-restraint.

The AU-UN envoy reiterates the call of the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon that all parties abide by their commitments under the different peace accords

signed by them and to urgently resort to dialogue to reach a peaceful and negotiated settlement of this latest crisis.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "profoundly alarmed" by the fighting in Chad, called Sunday for a ceasefire between government and rebel forces there, as the U.N. Security Council began an emergency session on the crisis.

(ST)

Some reflections on UN Resolution 1590 in relation to CPA (Sudan Vision)

By: Jonathan Mayen Nguen, An opportunity knocks was at hand when the (UNMIS) United Nations Mission in Sudan office in Juba the capital of GoSS distributed during the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission Conference on 14th to 17th January 2008 to the participants giving some useful ideas of the UN Resolution No. 1590 in relationship to CPA.

Which says, "acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter of which the Security Council decided that UNMIS is authorized to take the necessary action in areas of deployment of its forces and as if deems within its capabilities. Without prejudice to the responsibility of the government of Sudan to protect civilians under the imminent threat of physical violence. To assist in the establishing of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

To assist the parties in promoting understanding of the CPA and the role of UNMIS through an effective public information campaign or assist the parties to the CPA comprehensive Peace Agreement towards reconciliation and peace building. To facilitate and coordinate the voluntary return of refugees and IDPS and humanitarian assistance.

To contribute towards the international efforts to protect and promote human rights in Sudan.

To assist the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by providing humanitarian demining assistance technical advice and coordination.

To ensure an adequate human rights presence, capacity and expertise within UNMIS to carry out human rights promotion and monitoring activities.

To provide guidance and technical assistance in cooperation with other international actors to support the preparations for and conduct of elections and referendum.

To assist the parties in coordination with bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes in restructuring the police services in Sudan and develop police training.

To assist the parties in promoting the rule of law and the protection of human rights and request the Secretary General of UN through his special representative for Sudan to coordinate all the activities of the United Nations in the Sudan.

To mobilize resources and support from the international community.

To provide good offices and political support to the efforts to resolve all ongoing conflicts in Sudan.

To decide to establish the United Nations Mission in Sudan for an initial period of (six) months and further decides that UNMIS will consist of up to 10,000 military personnel and an appropriate civilian component including 715 civilian police personnel.

That the parties agree to request the United Nations to constitute a lean, effective

sustainable and affordable UN Peace Support Mission to monitor and verify the Agreement and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as provided for under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter.

For a sound implementation of the CPA, some of these ideas make some of the Sudanese and the international community understands the process of the implementation to the end.

Hybrid's SOFA allows night flights, freedom of movement (AIRai AIAam)

AIRai AIAam has been informed that the GoS has made some amendments on the draft of SFA submitted by the UN. Diplomatic sources say the Hybrid's SOFA is still under discussions. The GoS and the UN will sign the hybrid's SOFA on Wednesday this week. The agreement, which will be signed by the UN-AU Joint Special Representative for Darfur and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, allows for night flights and freedom of movement in the region.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan denies involvement in Chad fighting (ST)

February 3, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan on Sunday denied any involvement in fighting in Chad where rebels allegedly backed by Khartoum have besieged the presidential palace in Ndjamen.

"What's happening in Chad is an internal matter and we have nothing to do with it," state Minister for Foreign Affairs Sammani Al Wassila told journalists.

"We want the situation to calm down and to continue to have good neighbourly relations."

A foreign ministry statement called for restraint from all parties and for dialogue to resolve their differences as fierce fighting rocked Ndjamen for a second day.

Sudan appealed to give "care to the civilians and protect their lives and properties and ensure their rights in security, peace and decent living," the statement said, voicing particular concern for Sudanese refugees in Chad.

Staff at Sudan's embassy in Ndjamen are "well and safe," it added, expressing the hope 'that security and stability will prevail all over sisterly Chad soon.'

State Minister hails Egypt over supporting peace efforts in Darfur (SUNA)

Khartoum, Feb. 3 (SUNA) - State Minister at the Ministry of the Council of Ministers, Prof Abdel-Rahman Musa has lauded the role by the Egyptian government and people in support of peace process in Darfur and participation in the peace keeping troops in the region. Prof. Musa made the remark on Sunday when he received the Egyptian

ambassador to Khartoum. The meeting discussed the peace process in Darfur as well as a visit scheduled to be paid by the Ministry of the Council of Ministers to Egypt to partake in a founding conference of Arab Migration Ministries. AH/BT

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) accuses ruling party of fragmenting its party (Khartoum Monitor)

Dr. Ali al Sayed, a leading member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) accused the ruling National congress Party (NCP) of fragmenting his party on Friday. The DUP official lashed out at what he sees as NCP's push to woo DUP members through unlawful means.

Nafie Ali Nafie reacted by saying the "DUP cannot cry by saying we are taking their people. This is democracy".

Police raids, demolishes Khartoum IDPs (The Citizen)

The Citizen-- Police yesterday raided a displaced persons camp in Khartoum and told the people to leave or go back to Southern Sudan if they cannot find their families. The Government yesterday sent three platoons of police to the camp at Hajyousif area. The three platoons surrounded the IDPs. The police told the IDPs to go and look for another place. The police broke down the houses.

The Citizen interviewed the officers of the police. The officers said it is not good for the IDPs to be near the bridge and they are not willing to build good houses. They said the IDPs should look for their relatives or go to Southern Sudan.

IDP Mayen Akol told the Citizen that they were not informed by the government of Sudan before hand to look for another place. Mayen said they are many. Mayen said they don't know where to sleep at night. He said "we the people of Southern Sudan who are here in Khartoum, are not in peace of Sudan because we are still suffering under the Government of Sudan". Mayen said "we are worry about the children we don't know where they will sleep and we have three babies who were born last night".

GoSS

South Sudan to close down 15 Islamic banks, Bank of South Sudan Governor Malok Aleng reveals (Khartoum Monitor)

The Governor of the Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) and the Deputy Commissioner of the Central Bank of Sudan, Elijah Malok Aleng, has announced that south Sudan is due to close down 15 Islamic banks from southern sudan, in favour of home-grown banks and East African ones.

The Bank of south Sudan favours conventional banking while northern sudan, Central Bank of Sudan maintains Islamic banking system.

Uganda and LRA agree on accountability mechanisms (ST)

By James Gatdet Dak, February 3, 2008 (JUBA) — The two parties to the Juba peace talks ending the 21-years of brutal war in northern Uganda on Saturday reached a breakthrough on an annexure setting out the framework for implementation of the agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation.

In a yet to be signed agreement text read out by the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chief Mediator, Riek Machar Teny, the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have agreed to establish relevant bodies or legal institutions in Uganda to address the past.

They also agreed to the application of traditional justice mechanisms to backup the current Ugandan national justice system as an alternative to the International Criminal Court (ICC) justice system in addressing issues related to atrocities committed in the past and to promote reconciliation process. The parties further agreed on reparation of those affected by the conflict.

The LRA negotiators, however, could not sign the agreement text despite their expressed satisfaction and full agreement to the document. The leader of the LRA delegation, David Matsanga, said his delegation agreed to the document in its totality, but could not sign it before they explain it to Joseph Kony to bless it.

The government delegation expressed its readiness to sign the document.

The Minister of Presidential Affairs in the Government of Southern Sudan and member of the mediation team, Luka Biong Deng, told the press on Saturday that the agreement is ready and put aside for signature. He explained that the LRA delegation requested the Chief Mediator to give them time to consult with their leadership and explain the proposed agreement to Joseph Kony before they could sign it.

Deng further explained that the two parties also agreed to work on modalities for implementation of another agreement on Comprehensive Solutions to the Root Causes of the Conflict and to study the drafts on Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) and Formal Ceasefire before the LRA peace negotiators could travel with the package of agreed upon, but yet to be signed documents to Sudan-Congo border to consult with their high command.

Machar distributed a Mediator's draft paper on Comprehensive Solutions to the two parties and urged them to react to the draft, debate on it and reach an agreement on in the next few days.

(ST)

[Al Bashir, al Mahdi meet again Wednesday \(AlSahafa\)](#)

President al Bashir and the opposition Umma Party leader al Sadiq al Mahdi will hold their second meeting on this Wednesday. The meeting will discuss the pending issues in the dialogue between the two parties.

Darfur

Darfur rebels condemn Sudan's support for Chadian rebels (ST)

February 3, 2008 (LONDON) — Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has condemned "the intervention" of the Sudanese government in the internal affairs of Chad urging the African Union to condemn "the blatant GoS backing of the invasion."

In a statement released today the rebel movement denounced "Al-Bashir's latest military gamble to change the political system in Chad and impose a puppet government in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad."

The rebel movement said Sudan's "intervention in Chad" has already set back plans to enable deployment of the UN-European Military force to protect Darfur refugees in Chad".

The rebel JEM said supporting neighbouring rebels would not resolve the on going conflict in Darfur. It further invited Sudanese government to reach a political settlement to the conflict with Darfur rebels.

"JEM affirms to GoS that Darfur problem cannot be addressed by changing governments in neighbouring countries. Darfur problem is political and can only be apprehended through peaceful and political negotiations among all stake holders."

Sudan's government denied the accusation that it had backed the offensive by an alliance of Chadian insurgent groups, who denounce Deby's 18-year rule as corrupt and dictatorial.

(ST)

Miscellaneous

January witnesses increase of 13.4% in rate of inflation (AlKhartoum)

Rate of inflation in Sudan has jumped up from 8.8% in December to 13.4% in January, says the Central Bureau of Statistics. .

Chad rebels 'pushed from capital' (BBC)

Rebels seeking to overthrow Chad's president have been driven out of the capital, the government has said. The rebels say they have made a strategic withdrawal to the eastern edge of N'Djamena, after entering the city over the weekend. Aid workers say dead bodies litter the streets, while thousands of people are fleeing the city. The European Union has decided to delay the deployment of its peacekeeping force to Chad because of the unrest.

N'Djamena is separated from Cameroon by a bridge over the Logone-Chari river. Thousands of people were streaming over the bridge, UNHCR spokeswoman Helene Caux told the AFP news agency.

The UN called an emergency meeting in New York to discuss the crisis and will meet again on Monday. Before the meeting, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for a ceasefire. A statement from his office expressed concern at the "serious humanitarian situation of some 285,000 refugees and 180,000 internally displaced persons, as well as host communities, in eastern Chad".

The Chadian government said it had quashed the rebellion. "The whole of N'Djamena is under control and these mercenaries in the pay of Sudan have been scattered," Interior Minister Ahmat Mahamat Bachir told French radio RFI. But rebel leaders said they were giving civilians a chance to flee before launching another offensive.

In eastern Chad, the army said it had thwarted a second rebel attack on the town of Adre, near the border with Sudan. The area is home to some 400,000 people displaced as a result of the conflict in Darfur are living in camps. Adre is in the area where a French-dominated EU peacekeeping force is due to deploy to protect displaced civilians and the aid workers supporting them.

Chadian officials have accused the rebels of seeking to stop the deployment of the EU force. The government claimed the assault on the town had been backed by Sudanese aircraft. Chad's Minister for Mines and Energy, General Mahamat Ali Abdallah Nassour, called the attack a "declaration of war" by Sudan. "Sudan does not want this force because it would open a window on the genocide in Darfur," said Foreign Minister Amad Allam-Mi.

Sudan has repeatedly denied any involvement. "Any developments in Chad reflect on Sudan and any instability there would have a negative impact on Sudan," said Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadeq.

Chadian rebels seized control of large parts of the capital on Saturday, approaching the palace where President Idriss Deby was holding out. On Sunday, fierce fighting in the capital continued. Rebels were reported to have stormed the national radio offices before looters ransacked the building. N'Djamena's main market was also looted and torched after being hit by a missile, witnesses told AFP news agency.

THE REBEL COALITION

Unified Military Command includes:

Union of Forces for Democracy (UFDD) led by Mahamat Nouri

Rally of Forces for Change (RFC) led by Timane Erdimi

UFDD-Fundamental led by Abdelwahid Aboud Mackaye

Hundreds of foreigners, many of them French, have been evacuated to Gabon in central Africa.

France has a long-term military presence in Chad, one of its former colonies, giving the government intelligence and logistic support.

This has led the rebels to threaten to attack the EU peacekeeping force.

China, a major investor in Chad's growing oil industry, also evacuated 210 of its citizens and two Taiwanese, China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

Mr Deby seized power in a coup in 1990, but has won three elections since then, although their legitimacy has been challenged.

Chad envoy to US says Sudan “must learn the lesson” (ST)

By Wasil Ali, February 04, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The Chadian ambassador in Washington, Mahmoud Adam Bechir, said today that Sudan “must learn not to try and change other regimes” in light of the fighting between the government and rebels fighting for control of the capital Ndjamena.

In a telephone interview with Sudan Tribune, Bechir said that Khartoum provided “brand new” equipments to the rebels in order to carry out the offensive against the capital.

Sudan’s state Minister for Foreign Affairs Sammani al-Wassila denied any involvement in the attack and called the Chad fighting an "internal affair.

“Despite all that the capital is under the control of Chadian security forces and all the mercenaries were pushed out and the army is in the process of chasing them” Bechir added.

The Chadian envoy said that Idriss Deby “is carrying out his normal functions as a president”. France said that Deby turned down a French offer to evacuate him into a third country.

Asked whether the alleged Sudanese involvement to the rebels amounted to a declaration of war, Bechir said that “we will not be the ones to declare war on Sudan”.

Bechir said that his government believes that the relation between the Chadian and Sudanese citizens is “deep rooted” voicing hope that things would return to normal between the two countries in the future.

The Chadian envoy said that the UN Security Council emergency meeting today “is a reflection of the quick nature of the attack”.

After 3 1/2 hours of discussions on a proposed statement condemning the rebel attack, the council adjourned debate until Monday because Russia’s delegation needed more time to consult Moscow over the text, diplomats said.

They said Russia had objected to the first French draft that called on U.N. members to support the Deby government "by all necessary means" — a veiled reference to military aid.

A later draft urged members to "provide support as requested by the government of Chad." In his handwritten letter to the council, Chadian Ambassador Mahamat Adoum requested "all aid and assistance needed to help (Chad) end this aggression."

France's U.N. ambassador, Jean-Maurice Ripert, told reporters there was "almost a consensus" on the text. "We hope to be there tomorrow morning," he said.

(ST)

France condemns Chad rebels, accuses Sudan (ST)

February 3, 2008 (PARIS) — France's President Nicolas Sarkozy strongly condemned a rebel offensive to topple the Chadian government Sunday as a first batch of evacuated foreigners reached the safety of French soil.

During telephone talks with Chadian President Idriss Deby, Sarkozy "said again that France... strongly condemns the attempt to seize power by armed groups coming from the outside," presidential spokesman David Martinon said.

A first French military aircraft touched down at Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport outside Paris, carrying 202 foreigners evacuated from Ndjamena via the Gabonese capital Libreville.

Chad's conflict has left former colonial power France walking a tightrope as it tries to salvage a European peacekeeping mission for Darfur refugees and prevent its forces from being drawn into combat.

"Why the intervention took place at that time? It was the last moment before the arrival of the EUFOR, which was beginning to take place, for the Sudan to achieve these ends, i.e. to try to liquidate the regime of Idris Deby, "said the closest collaborator of Nicolas Sarkozy to radio Europe-1.

"I have clear indications suggesting that if this was not the rivalry between the Sudanese regime and the regime of Chad, we would have little difficulty to install the Eufor," said Guéant He further mentioned the "indisputable logistical support from the Sudan" to the rebels.

Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, while condemning a "brutal attack on a legal government, against an elected president" has made it clear the 1,450 French troops would not get involved.

Chad's Foreign Minister Amad Allam-Mi has accused Sudan of masterminding the rebel offensive in a bid to halt the deployment.

Khartoum on Sunday denied any involvement but Kouchner told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper that it was "absolutely certain that these Chadian (rebel) forces come from Sudan."

(Some information for this report was provided by AFP and AP)

Chad rebellion quashed, Sudan behind it - FM minister (ST)

February 3, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — The Chadian government said Sunday it had quashed a rebellion aimed at ousting President Idriss Deby and driven the rebels out of the capital Ndjamena.

"The battle for Ndjamena is over," Foreign Minister Amad Allam-Mi told France's RTI radio in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in an interview in which he angrily accused the Sudanese of being directly behind the rebellion.

A leading rebel told AFP on condition of anonymity that the insurgents had simply withdrawn temporarily to allow civilians time to leave the capital.

"People should not think that Deby has won. He is still entrenched in his bunker from which he cannot leave," he said on condition of anonymity.

The capital, which was calm late Sunday, had earlier been rocked by tank battles in the streets and helicopter air strikes.

Allam-Mi said Sudan had masterminded the rebel offensive in a bid to install its own Sudan-friendly administration in Ndjamena and "to close the window on the crisis in Darfur."

He also threatened future incursions into Sudan to pursue the rebels.

"Sudan has sent these attackers more than 700 kilometres (430 miles) to destroy our capital," he said. "If it is necessary for the security of Chad and for the defense of its integrity, we will go to Sudan."

The African Union has also condemned it and Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade called the conflict "a failure for Africa".

No death toll from the fighting has been given but many bodies were left in the streets, some covered in flies some with plastic sheets put over them.

The Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders) aid group said hundreds of civilians had been wounded. About 400 people had fled across the western border into Cameroon, according to the UN refugee agency.

Allam-Mi told RTI later Sunday that the assault on Adre had also been repelled.

(AFP)

Tank battles in Chad capital before rebels pull back (ST)

February 3, 2008 (NDJAMENA) — Tank battles in the streets and helicopter air strikes rocked the Chadian capital Sunday before the rebels trying to oust President Idriss Deby announced a temporary withdrawal.

Anti-tank and automatic weapons fire was heard around the presidential palace, where Deby has been holed up since Friday. Bodies covered with flies littered the streets and aid groups reported hundreds of wounded from the fighting.

Ndjamena was calm late Sunday but a rebel leader told AFP the opposition forces had only pulled back to the eastern edge of the capital to allow civilians enough time to flee the city before a new offensive.

Chadian army helicopters attacked a rebel column near the national radio station headquarters in the capital. They also fired at other rebel vehicles in the city.

An army unit guarded the national radio but gave up after running out of ammunition. Rebels then moved in, but witnesses said they left and looters ransacked the building and left it ablaze.

The main Ndjamena market was also looted and torched after it was hit by a missile, witnesses told AFP.

The United Nations and humanitarian group Oxfam said they would evacuate all personnel and many US embassy staff were taken to the French military base on Sunday to be flown out, military sources said.

China, a major investor in Chad's growing oil industry, organised an airlift for 210 Chinese and two Taiwanese, China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

Germans, Belgians, Spanish, Portuguese, Egyptian and Armenian nationals were also airlifted out. About 200 of the evacuees were due to arrive in Paris late Sunday.

(AFP)