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UNMIS**

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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

UN prepares to deploy 11,000 soldiers on Chad-Sudan border

(Rai AlShaab et al; SudanTribune.com) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for the deployment of forces of different sizes in Chad and north-east of the CAR to protect refugees who fled the fighting in Darfur.

According to reports issued yesterday the roles of these forces will be to provide “good offices” to facilitate political dialogue between the concerned parties and a military role.

Ban proposed two possible military options for Chad _ a 6,000-strong force backed by 20 helicopters and an observation aircraft and a 10,900-strong force backed by 11 helicopters and two observation aircraft. He also proposed that some 800 Chadian police be loaned to a U.N. peacekeeping operation to help protect a dozen refugee camps and key towns where Chadians have fled, along with 260 international police.

In northeastern Central African Republic, he said, a modest deployment of approximately 500 U.N. military and police personnel "would have a stabilizing effect on the situation."

But the secretary-general cautioned that "eastern Chad is not a conventional peacekeeping environment" because of unrest in the region, hostilities between the government and opposition groups, and the failure of efforts at political dialogue to gain momentum

The United Nations chief also said that he will be dispatching a team to prepare as soon as possible for the deployment of the envisaged forces. This advance team will consist of a leader with his base in N'Djamena and a military team that also consists of civilian police. He said that a team of 35 military officers will also be charged with making contacts with the armies in Chad and the CAR.

Authorities uncover expired foodstuffs at WFP stores in S. Darfur

(AlIntibaha, AlSudani et al) Authorities uncovered about 700 *(AlIntibaha, AlKhartoum, Rai AlShaab and Alwan* quoting *SMC* on these figures) metric tonnes of expired foodstuffs worth about 2.5 billion Sudanese Dinars *(AlSudani* daily quotes a security source as citing a figure of 365 while *Akhbar Alyaum* mentions 350 metric tonnes) at the WFP stores in Nyala, South Darfur.

A source at the S. Darfur health ministry pointed out that the foodstuff may have gone to rot as a result of poor storage facilities because the organisation did not follow the required health standards in constructing its stores. He pointed out that the WFP did not inform the competent authorities on the stores they had.

The source goes on to say that the organisation had carried out a 75% cut in rations to 17,000 people in the area.

He said that the rotten foodstuffs will be disposed of starting from tomorrow. He said this may take three day and will be carried out in the presence of representatives of the Humanitarian Aid Commission, Sudan Standards and Metrology Organisation, the Ministry of Health and those of humanitarian agencies including the WHO.

A “security source” that chose not to be named told *AlSudani* yesterday that he wonders why should the WFP store such large quantities of foodstuff until rotten at a time when IDPs at the Attas camp that is home to about 17,000 have not received rations since the month of Ramadhan (around mid second half of last year).

Task force to address sexual abuse and exploitation

(*IRIN, Juba Post, Rai AlShaab, AlHayat*) United Nations agencies and the southern Sudanese government are to establish a task force to monitor cases of sexual abuse and exploitation involving international staff, officials said.

"To my knowledge it would be the first such task force," David Gressly, UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Southern Sudan, said at a one-day workshop on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation on Tuesday in the southern capital of Juba.

Participants agreed to launch a public information campaign against the abuse.

"There are 13 ongoing investigations being implemented by the OIOS [Office of Internal Oversight Services]," Aster Zaoude, head of the Conduct and Discipline Unit in the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), said. Two of the investigations, she added, could not be substantiated but four military personnel had been repatriated, as had one member of the UNMIS police.

"There will be incidents; we need to be prepared to enforce our policies," Zaoude added.

The southern Sudanese Vice-President, Riek Machar, said: "This is an important workshop and we in government welcome it, particularly because this was a burning issue; it will help to clear the air."

The southern Sudanese government, he added, expected to be informed of reports about sexual misconduct "so that proper action can be taken in a timely and ordered manner".

"The GOSS [government of Southern Sudan] was caught unawares and we were pressed by the world and the Sudanese people who wanted to know what had happened." said Machar. He added that the government had also been "in the dark" about investigations into the crime.

"Our country has been split over the deployment of UN troops in Darfur," Machar said. "When the press talked about sexual abuse and exploitation, [certain] groups used it to try and stop deployment."

Saying the government would be informed of the outcome once the investigations were complete, Gressly explained: "We have agreed to strengthen our contact. It is a concept that has been agreed to, the challenge is now to take it on and make it function."

The UK's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported on 2 January that at least 20 children said they had been picked up in Juba by UN peacekeepers. The report, which noted that some of the children were as young as 12, prompted a UN investigation.

The task force will include Sudanese ministers and operate under the auspices of the Vice-President.

On the issue of compensation, Gressly said: "Systems of compensation are already in place for accidents and so forth; we are trying to identify what the system can provide in terms of compensation for these kinds of incidents."

The civilian and military arms of the UN operation had taken measures against possible abuse, in line with the organisation's zero tolerance policy to sexual exploitation of children.

The UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, trained more than 5,000 UN and non-governmental humanitarian and development staff since 2003 on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation. UNMIS also includes the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in its training programmes, and bans its staff from notorious bars and market areas at night.

There are thousands of UN personnel and other aid workers in southern Sudan, but according to Jennifer Kiti, an expert who set up training and reporting systems on sexual abuse and exploitation for agencies and NGOs in southern Sudan, mechanisms to enforce the UN's strict code of conduct issued in 2003 are insufficient to prevent abuse.

Rai AlShaab and *AlHayat* dailies cover the story from a different angle, both under the heading: *UN Demands that Daily Telegraph reporter bring forth evidence of his allegations of sexual abuse of children in southern Sudan.*

The dailies say that the UN had requested evidence of the allegations but to no avail. UN officials at the workshop called upon anyone with evidence on those allegations to come forward so that the perpetrators of such crimes get the punishment due them.

These papers also make not of the taskforce set up on SEA.

Opinion articles:

RAI ALSHAAB: Columnist Kamal Omar Al-Muhami writes today under the title: *UNMIS and Suleiman Jamous.*

In this article, the columnist wonders why the government of Sudan should keep mum over the detention by UNMIS of Suleiman Jamous.

He calls on the family of Mr. Jamous to sue the UN mission for detaining the former field commander.

The writer describes as double-standards the government refusal of the deployment of a UN force for Darfur on the grounds it is preserving its sovereignty while it remains silent on the Jamous detention. "Is sovereignty a special standard for the protection of the state or does the citizen also enjoy such protection," he wonders.

He also cites the Bill of Rights in the Interim Constitution and points out that the UNMIS has transgressed the boundaries of impartiality by keeping Jamous under detention.

The writer serves accusations to both government and the UNMIS.

JUBA POST: Appearing on page 4 of the *Juba Post* is a ¼ page article written by a Redento Tombe titled *Juba, What a Terrible Waste*.

The writer laments that a traveller coming from Yei is greeted by large amounts of waste just 15 kilometers south-west of Juba town. The waste, the writer adds, includes sewage.

The writer goes on to lament that this waste is not only dumped by individuals but even agencies operating in Juba. He underlines the health hazards as pointing out that the road into Juba from that side slopes downhill and this may bring in residues of such waste back to Juba.

Two pictures also appear in the article showing a town council vehicle apparently disposing of its load of sewage and an UNMIS vehicle waiting for its turn to do the same.

The Transition Debate

Sudan, AU, UN discuss support to Darfur peacekeepers

(*UN News*) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) on 21 February attended the sixth meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism, which also includes representatives from the Sudanese Government and the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), to further discuss the world body's support package for the African troops who are trying to bring peace to war-ravaged Darfur.

The meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism was told that more of the UN civilian staff provided for as part of the world body's light support package to AMIS have been recruited and are presently in Khartoum. They will be deployed shortly to support AMIS, both in Khartoum and in El Fasher, the capital of north Darfur.

The UN light support package provides for the deployment of 105 military staff officers, 33 civilian police officers, and 48 civilian staff. So far, 49 UN military staff officers, 32 UN civilian police officers and 4 UN civilian staff have been deployed to support AMIS in El Fasher and Khartoum.

The package also includes equipment for AMIS, which has now been delivered, except for 168 night vision goggles out of the 360 authorized. The Tripartite Mechanism will hold its next meeting on 7 March at AMIS Headquarters in Khartoum.

Meanwhile *AlAyaam* daily today issues excerpts of an interview with foreign minister Lam Akol in which he commented, among other issues, on the ICC and the UN support package to the African Union.

On the support package, the foreign minister pointed out that Sudan is now in close cooperation with the UN following the Addis Ababa meeting and the recommendations of the Abuja summit.

The minister pointed out that the agreement reached in Addis on the third phase is that the UN may provide support troops on logistics, administration and technical areas to support the AMIS boots on the ground. He added that they are awaiting a resolution from the UN for funding to the AMIS.

He also pointed out that the UN will then have to send a mission to Darfur under the African Union Force Commander and the two organisations will then appoint their respective Special Representatives to link the whole process.

He stressed that Addis agreed that this culminate in a hybrid operation as opposed to a hybrid force.

CPA

President relieves governor of S. Kordofan

(*Juba Post, AlSudani et al*) President Bashir issued a decree yesterday relieving Ismail Khamis Jallab from the post of Governor of S. Kordofan State and appointing Abu-el-Gassim Ahmed Imam as his replacement.

This comes in the wake of recent riots and clashes between the police and students that left 54 persons injured in Kadugli, S. Kordofan.

Sudan's Lakes State celebrates 3,602 guns disarmament

(*SR*) Thousand of people gathered in Rumbek's Freedom Square yesterday to celebrate the disarmament lay out of fire-arms. The total of collected fire arms is 3,602 including AK47 and some heavy machinegun.

Lakes Sate Governor Daniel Awet Akot commended the competent authorities for a job well done and gave special thanks to SPLA Brigadier Bol Akot who led the exercise and to all those officers, NGOs and individuals who participated and still are participating in the effort.

He also congratulated the SPLA and the law enforcement agencies on the big great achievement and promised to make of the state an example for right action. He said this is not the end but the beginning of the disarmament process I the state.

He also gave thanks, among others, to UNMIS for “standing by the CPA and seriously monitoring against violence”.

Lt.Gen. Daniel Awet concluded that his Government is very determined to make Lakes State one of the best and peaceful places in southern Sudan and urged the population to join hands with the government to “make this Dream a reality”.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Southern Sudan to collect taxes from hotels, camps

(Reuters) The semi-autonomous southern Sudan government will levy taxes on hotels and tent camps in the capital Juba for the first time since the end of the country’s civil war, a tax official said on Wednesday.

‘This will be the first time in the history of Southern Sudan that VAT (value added tax) will actually be collected,’ Director General of Taxation Ayom Mach Jok told Reuters.

Although laws had been in place for the collection of the tax before, they were not implemented during the 21-year north-south civil war, he said.

Jok said the 10 percent tax would be retroactive from July 1, 2005, and would be levied on accommodation and sales of beverages and tobacco. He said hotels had been briefed on the decision. ‘We have the numbers of rooms and so we can use this to calculate what we can expect,’ said Jok, who expected to collect the tax from 41 registered camps and hotels

Kony, Otti enter Central African Rep.

(New Vision) More than 400 fighters of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by their leaders Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti, have entered the Central African Republic, the army has said.

Kony entered the strife-torn country through Tambura in South Sudan, while Otti sneaked in directly from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sources said the rebels are targeting the national park in the south-east of the country, where there is hardly any government presence.

Last week, an advance party of 40 rebels crossed to the Central African Republic, where they looted food and drugs from Yangiri dispensary. The main group of 400 rebels, who were camped 35km south of Tambura town, followed on Monday. “We have received

information that the Ugandan rebels and their top leadership are now in the Central African Republic,” the defence ministry spokesman, Major Felix Kulayigye, said yesterday.

The Ugandan rebels had come under pressure by the Kinshasa authorities to leave their sanctuary in Garamba National Park. Their departure was also prompted by a meeting between Ugandan, Congolese and South-Sudanese security officials in Arua last week on how to deal with the LRA threat.

In the Central African Republic, the LRA has reportedly linked up with rebels of the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD), who are fighting the Government of Francois Bozize.

Kony and Otti are likely to face French fire as France, which supports Bozize, is actively involved in fighting the APRD rebels.

In another development, Uganda is investigating a radio station run by the LRA in Köln, Germany, called Radio Rhino. Its director, Patrick Geoffrey Ayo, is a member of the LRA delegation to the Juba peace talks. An employee of the same radio, Otim Okullu, is also a member of the LRA delegation.

Senior government officials said Radio Rhino, which operated from the compound of Ayo’s residence in Köln and aired pro-LRA programmes, only went off air recently when the two got involved in the peace talks.

Meanwhile, behind-the-scenes manoeuvres are going on to have the peace talks move to either Kenya or South Africa. The New Vision has reliably learnt that members of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, led by Archbishop Odama, are currently soliciting South Africa and Kenya to host the talks, as demanded by the LRA.

LRA sort out differences

(Agencies) The Lord’s Resistance Army peace negotiators have ironed out their differences and are willing to meet the LRA top leadership, largely to set a date for the resumption of the faltering peace talks stalled by a rebel walk-out.

The announcement was made yesterday by the peace talk’s mediator Riek Machar.

It comes a day after Army and Defence Spokesman Felix Kulayigye confirmed that Kony and Otti have left their camp in DR Congo's vast Garamba Game Reserve and relocated to Central African Republic.

"We have reliable intelligence information that Kony and Otti are in central Africa," Maj. Kulayigye said. "Representatives of Ugandan guerrillas in the peace talks will meet the South Sudan mediators in a bid to re-start the faltering negotiations stalled by a rebel walk-out," Dr Machar said on Tuesday.

Last month, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) delegates quit talks that began in the South Sudanese capital Juba in July, saying they feared for their safety after Sudanese President Hassan Omar al-Bashir vowed to "get rid of them from Sudan".

They had called for another venue outside Sudan. But on Tuesday, chief mediator and south Sudan Vice President Riek Machar, said he had been given assurances that the guerrilla group's representatives would come back.

"There were differences between LRA rebels. Now they have reunited," Dr Machar told Reuters.

Two decades of civil war between the LRA and Uganda's military have killed over 10 thousand people and displaced some 1.7 million in northern Uganda. Most LRA fighters are in neighbouring South Sudan, but the top leadership who are wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague -- remained hidden in the dense forests of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

"After the LRA delegates arrive, I am planning to travel with them to meet the LRA leaders and set a schedule for resumption of the talks," Dr Machar said. LRA delegates were not immediately available for comment and Dr Machar did not mention the date they would arrive in Juba

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

S. Darfur governor says international community not serious on Darfur

(*Sudan Vision*) Referring to the fact the Sudan has started implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement in collaboration with opponents of the agreement, S. Darfur State governor el-Haj Atta-el-Mannan says that the international community is not serious in dealing with the issue of Darfur.

In a meeting with a visiting Turkish media delegation at the state capital, the minister pointed out that the Darfur problem was rooted in poverty and illiteracy and in the complex tribal and social structures that bred frictions between farmers and pastoralists.

He denied any ethnic or religious conflict among the people in the region.

The minister called on the international community to address the root causes of the problems as demonstrated by poverty and illiteracy and provide animal health and water services so as to minimize friction between farmers and pastoralists.

In answer to a question on IDP figures in the state, the governor said that IDPs number 369,000 spread in 18 IDP camps in S. Darfur.

More displacement amid continuing violence in Darfur

(*IRIN* – Nairobi, 21 Feb.) Several thousand Sudanese civilians who were forced to flee their villages after fighting broke out between the Targem and Reziegat Maharia communities

in South Darfur have moved to Kass town, where humanitarian agencies have started assisting them, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said.

Unconfirmed reports suggested that between 70 and 100 tribesmen were killed and 14 injured in the clashes, which were triggered by a dispute over pasture. By Tuesday, about 3,352 people had been registered for assistance, but others were widely dispersed.

Another 1,000 internally displaced, UNMIS said, had arrived at Al Salam camp from Sanamanaga after fleeing renewed fighting last week between the local population and the Maharia militia.

Kass town, which originally had 25,466 people, has taken on 73,653 displaced people since March 2004 - many from surrounding villages. Aid workers in the town said the IDPs took refuge in homes and buildings and set up makeshift shelters in open spaces surrounding institutions such as primary schools. More than 20 such informal camps exist in the town.

The latest movement of people comes amid reports that a significant group of suspected Janjaweed Arab militia had been gathering for five days in Um Shalaya area, 75km northeast of El Geneina in West Darfur. No reason for the gathering could be immediately established, according to aid workers.

It also follows a continuing pattern of violence perpetrated by various armed groups. On Saturday, tents belonging to several UN agencies were destroyed by police from the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army, while an NGO was temporarily forced to relocate medical staff from Otash camp, 15km north of Nyala, because of shooting by drunken policemen.

In another incident, two suspected armed Arab militiamen entered Krinding II camp in El Geneina, burnt a shelter and shot dead one displaced person before fleeing.

Meanwhile, the influx of Chadian refugees into West Sudan has risen because of cross-border conflict. Within the past two weeks, an estimated 10,000 Chadian refugees have moved across the border.

On Wednesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said fighting had escalated over recent months in many parts of Darfur, forcing people to flee to more remote areas where it is harder for aid workers to reach them.

Civilians who stayed in their villages were unable to tend their fields or go to local markets because of the violence and insecurity, while traditional survival methods have broken down. These recent developments, it noted, were "alarming signals".

"Whole communities are being caught up in a spiral of destitution, leading them to seek refuge in the camps, which are already overflowing," the ICRC said in a statement at the end of a visit to the region by its president, Jakob Kellenberger.

The Darfur conflict began in 2003 when rebels took up arms to fight Khartoum's powerful Islamist regime. The government responded by arming Janjaweed militias to contain the conflict; the militias instead launched a campaign of rape and murder, targeting black African communities.

An estimated two million people have been made homeless by the conflict, which has since spilled over into eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic