



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **United Nations**

#### **Darfur violence worse since peace deal - UN Pronk**

(*Reuters/ST* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The top UN envoy in Sudan on Thursday said violence in Darfur had escalated after a May peace deal and violations of the accord had been ignored.

UN special envoy Jan Pronk also renewed his call for additions to the May 5 agreement, such as international security guarantees and greater compensation for war victims, despite recent objections from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

"You can compare this situation ... I would say to March, February, before we had the peace agreement," Pronk told a news conference, referring to violence in Darfur in Sudan's west. "It's not dying out, it's increasing at the moment," he added.

Pronk said more needed to be done to address peace deal violations, and defended the peace agreement, which he had signed as a witness and helped broker by urging rebels to agree to the text.

"A peace agreement which is not getting the support of the majority ... is not sustainable. But then the technical question is, should you wait until everybody is in agreement? Or can you see the agreement as a step toward further agreements?" he said.

"The first priority is implementation, implementation, implementation ... It's non-implementation of the text which is creating a problem, not the text," he added.

#### **UN says it will close eastern Sudan mission**

(*AP/ST* – 7<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The United Nations will close its mission in eastern Sudan now that thousands of former rebels have been moved to the country's south, the chief U.N. envoy Jan Pronk said Thursday.

In a statement, Pronk said he had told the governor of Kassala province that the U.N. operation would be phased out because its task had been completed.

The U.N. mission oversaw the relocation of about 5,500 guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, together with their families and military material. The last guerrillas left Kassala last month.

The redeployment was part of the peace agreement signed in January 2005 that ended a 21-year war between the SPLA and the government of Sudan, Africa's biggest nation.

Although based in southern Sudan, the SPLA established bases in Kassala state to mount attacks on government forces and the oil pipeline to Port Sudan.

Turning to Sudan's troubled Darfur region, Pronk said the United Nations was keeping watch to see if a Monday attack by Darfur rebels on a town in another part of western Sudan was an isolated incident or the beginning of a bid to expand that area's conflict.

Sudan's government condemned the Justice and Equality Movement for attacking Hamarat Sheikh, which is in Kordofan on the road between North Darfur and the national capital, Khartoum. The raiders killed about a dozen people, mostly members of the security forces.

A JEM spokesman said the attack was in retaliation for a security force raid in Darfur.

JEM is one of several factions that refused to sign a May 5 peace agreement that seeks to end three years of fighting in Darfur over land and water. The conflict has caused the deaths of an estimated 200,000 people and displaced 2 million.

### **Government rejects requests to extend the presence of the Nepalese forces in eastern**

(*AlSahafa* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Senior United Nations and local state authority officials in Kassala state have issued conflicting remarks over the issue of the closing down of the unMIS offices in eastern Sudan following the conclusion of its monitoring role in eastern Sudan.

According to local officials in Kassala, the federal authorities in Khartoum had requested Kassala State to launch a farewell party for UNMIS within the coming few days and had expressed satisfaction over the role of the Nepalese contingent there that monitored the redeployment of the SPLA from eastern Sudan.

The source further adds that SRSG Pronk wanted the Nepalese forces to remain in the area to monitor the impending agreement with the eastern Sudanese rebels and sought a Security Council resolution in this regard to give the forces some sort of legitimacy but the government was totally against the issue.

The Minister for Social Affairs in Kassala State said that the Nepalese forces are slated to leave the area within 2 weeks but UNMIS Deputy Spokesperson Bahaa Elkoussy told *AlSahafa* that the scaling-out of the mission in its military and administrative components may take some time that may extend up to end-August this year.

The Deputy Spokesperson pointed out that the mission has a large quantity of assets such as tents equipment, motor vehicles, communications equipment, water tanks and so on that need some time to be disposed of.

He confirmed there are plans for the Nepalese forces but did not say what would become of the administrative component made up of up to 80 international and local employees.

Meanwhile the local minister for social affairs has revealed that authorities in Kassala have reached an agreement with United Nations agencies operating in the area that they submit monthly work plans on the basis of which their humanitarian workers will be granted access in the various parts of the state.

## **CPA**

### **10,000 refugees return to southern Sudan - UN**

(*Xinhua/ST* – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Nairobi**) The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said on Friday the number of refugees repatriated to southern Sudan under UN-backed program passed 10,000 this week.

In a statement, the UNHCR lauded the figure as a modest landmark in the efforts to bring home some 350,000 people who fled two decades of civil war that formally ended in early 2005 with a peace agreement between the government and rebels.

"A milestone was reached earlier this week, when the 10,000th refugee to be repatriated by UNHCR to southern Sudan under a program launched in December, returned home on a convoy from Uganda," the statement said.

The statement said the convoy, which arrived on Tuesday, was carrying 262 refugees from Moyo in northern Uganda.

This latest convoy brought the number of UNHCR-assisted returnees to 10,113.

After delays last year due to security and logistical concerns, UNHCR began repatriating Sudanese from neighboring countries also including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the Central African Republic in December and the rate of returns has been steady since then.

Apart from the refugees in neighboring countries, more than 4 million Sudanese were displaced internally by the decades-long war in the south.

### **Slow aid delays southern refugees' return - Sudan**

(*Reuters/ST* – 7<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Beirut**) The slow disbursement of promised international aid is delaying the repatriation of refugees to Sudan's south more than a year after the end of Africa's longest civil war, Sudan Foreign Minister Lam Akol said on Friday.

Akol, speaking at a news conference in Beirut, said donors that last year pledged \$4.5 billion to help the country recover from the war between the Khartoum government and southern rebels "have come up only with about 30 percent of what they promised."

"This is delaying the implementation of things that cannot be postponed, like the repatriation of the refugees and the displaced," he said.

"We need money to provide the refugees and displaced with water, with medical and educational services. With the number of refugees and displaced people we have you can estimate we need a lot of money."

Big pledges at a subsequent aid conference in Oslo came from the European Commission which promised about \$765 million, Britain \$545 million, Norway \$250 million and the Netherlands \$220 million.

The World Bank said in March that over \$1.1 billion of aid money were spent on urgent humanitarian needs mostly in the south. Aid needed at southern Sudan alone stands at \$2.5 billion, the World Bank says.

On the situation in Darfur, Akol said Khartoum believed a new rebel alliance that attacked a Sudanese town on Monday did not pose a serious threat to the peace agreement between the government and one of three rebel negotiating factions.

"Any armed group needs support on the ground in order to survive. The most important thing is popular support," he said.

"This group does not enjoy this. It cannot achieve more than a media splash and I don't believe it can, on the long run, pose a threat to the Darfur peace deal."

The National Redemption Front (NRF) that attacked Hamrat al-Sheikh in North Kordofan, which neighbours Darfur, is an alliance of Darfur rebels and political parties who reject the May 5 peace deal.

### **Sudanese minister appeals to support Abyei Protocol implementation**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Cabinet Affairs Minister in the Government of National Unity, Deng Alor Kual, has appealed to the Sudanese people to support the implementation of the Abyei Protocol.

Deng also urged the international community to pressure the ruling National Congress Party to implement the Abyei Protocol as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

In an interview with Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in Khartoum last Friday, Alor said that the presidency has failed to resolve the dispute over the contested area of Abyei and alleged that this is due to the ruling party's interest in Abyei only as a source of wealth.

"For National Congress they see this as almost impossible because their interest in Abyei is oil. And it is clear it is not because they love Misariyah or they like them but it is because of materials interest in the area, and I would again like to appeal to the international community to pressure the National Congress Party to accept the implementation because this will only lead to more disasters and more problems in the area" Alor said.

The minister claimed that the NCP has rejected an SPLM proposal for a third party to intervene and resolve the conflict.

## **GoNU**

### **Sudan's Bashir denies difference with vice-president Taha**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 6<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir stressed the cohesiveness of the Government of National Unity adding that the rumours regarding differences between him and the vice-president Ali Osman Taha are totally untrue and have been fabricated by the media.

His denial comes after persistent rumors in the Sudanese capital about al-Bashir-Taha row over the UN force takeover in Darfur. Contrary to Bashir, Taha seems favorable to transfer the peacekeeping mission from the African Union to the United Nations.

Taha is currently in Turkey since three weeks. He even didn't attend the celebration of the 30 June 1989 Islamist coup d'état.

It is admitted that Bashir- Taha difference dates back to the formation of the Government of National Unity after the signing of the Comprehensive peace Agreement with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Taha sought to nominate ministers who should be favorable to the CPA, also he wanted to renew the ruling party by promoting new figures. But Bashir chose to keep the old guard who

is against the peace deal like Nafei Ali Nafei, Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, Majzoub al-Khalifa and others.

The death of the late Dr John Garang, the two years friend of Taha, weakened the position of the Second Vice-President who is more and more marginalized by al-Bashir clan.

However analysts say Taha's open-mind and his good relations with the international community give him advantage over Bashir. They say Taha pragmatic approach is more productive than demagogue al-Bashir who often retracts his previous burning statement.

### **Sudanese ruling party shows cohesion around second vice president**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) Second Vice-President Osman Taha who arrived Friday night resumed Saturday his duties at his office at the Republican Palace following a three-week vacation in Istanbul, Turkey, in a way to show unity and cohesion among the leadership of the ruling National Congress party.

Taha was briefed on the Eastern Sudan peace talks' preparation by the head of the governmental team for negotiations with the Eastern Front, Mustafa Osman Ismail. The presidential advisor informed the vice president on the content of the Declaration of Principles and the ceasefire agreement signed with rebels.

He also received the minister of national defence, Maj-Gen Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein who enlightened him on the security arrangements and coordination with SLM-Minawi faction which signed the Darfur peace Agreement with the Sudanese government last may.

The minister said the plan to disarm the Janjaweed militias will be presented to the African Union Saturday 8 July. Hussein said Sudanese troops have arrived in Hamrat al-Shaykh in Northern Kordofan State and that a security plan to defend it has been put in place.

Taha discussed with the Energy and Mining Minister Awad al-Jaz, means to develop mining industry in the country and directed al-Jaz to study Turkish experience in this field.

All these media covered meetings are orchestrated in a manner to deny rumours on Taha's differences with Bashir and to show a coherent party.

Rumors circulated in Khartoum about his differences with the Sudanese president and his possible resignation or dismissal. The two men have different positions on the question of the deployment of the Blue helmets in the war-torn region of Darfur.

Taha, accompanied by the members of his family, was received at Khartoum International airport Friday night by the minister of national Defense, Lt. Gen Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, and minister of presidential affairs, Gen Bakri Hassan Salih and number of ministers.

### **SPLM disagrees with ruling party on the celebration of peace**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) While it was announced that 9 July is an official holiday in the country to celebrate peace agreement, the former rebel SPLM said it will boycott the celebration because it disagree with the choice of the date.

The Secretariat General of the Council of the Ministers announced that Sunday 9 July would be an official holiday all over the Sudan on the occasion of the celebrations of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

But the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Ateem Gerang, said that Sudan People's Liberation Movement will not participate in festivities organized on this occasion. Elle underlined that the date of 9 July is the date of the signing of the New Sudan's Constitution and it is the date where Omar al-Bashir was sworn in president of the republic.

Ateem reminded that CPA was signed on 9 January. He further said that SPLM attached to celebrate the peace agreement on the day where it was signed.

## **Southern Sudan**

### **Uganda names team for peace talks with rebels**

(*Xinhua/ST* – 8<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Kampala**) Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has named an eight-member team for peace talks with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) scheduled for next week in the southern Sudan city of Juba.

The team is led by Minister of Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda, who will be assisted by State Minister for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Relations Henry Okello Oryem.

The list, quoted by the state-owned New Vision on Saturday, included the head of the internal and external security organizations, Amos Mukumbi and Makku-Igga respectively, as well as Chief of Military Intelligence Leonard Kyanda.

The eight-member team also included acting commander of Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) 4th Division in Gulu, Eric Otema, who is also head of intelligence operations in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

According to the chief mediator and Vice President of southern Sudan, Riek Machar, the talks will start on Wednesday.

Joseph Kony, elusive LRA leader, appointed his 15-member peace delegation on June 12, who has been waiting in Juba for direct talks with the Ugandan government.

Initial hurdles to peace talks were lessened when Uganda dropped its previous preconditions that Kony and four top LRA commanders already indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) should participate in the talks.

Rugunda's advance team that met with South Sudan President Salva Kiir last week also agreed to talk to Kony's delegation, which they had previously said was not credible.

To promote the talks, the latest peace attempt since 2004, Museveni on Tuesday pledged to grant total amnesty to Kony if peace talks succeed. But the ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo insisted Kony has to face trial.

"Finally, the judges will have to decide what to do with the case. The court is the only arbiter of its mandate, the judges will decide," chief prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo told a press briefing here.

Meanwhile, the LRA has already rebutted Museveni's amnesty offer, referring to it as redundant and not applicable in negotiations.

Kony has led the LRA since 1988 in its brutal insurgency in northern Uganda against Museveni's government, which has left tens of thousands of people killed and over 1.4 million displaced in the conflict.

## **Other developments**

### **Preliminary national population census to kick off in November**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 9<sup>th</sup> Jul. **Khartoum**) The head of the Central Bureau of Statistics has announced that a preliminary (*test*) population census will be carried out in November this year while the official national census will be carried out one year later (November next year).

Professor Awad Haj Ali says local and international specialists will carry out the exercise.