



Media Monitoring Report

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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Darfur JEM leader makes first TV appearance since attack on capital

(ST)- The leader of Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Khalil Ibrahim appeared on Al-Jazeera Arabic TV channel from Qatar for the first time since he launched an failed attack on the Sudanese capital last month.

The Al-Jazeera TV said that in the interview, to be televised later today, Ibrahim slammed the Arab League saying it devoted more attention to crises in other Arab countries than the Darfur conflict.

US envoy meets Sudan president; reports of little progress in normalization talks

(ST)-The US special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson met with President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to discuss the outcome of negotiations between the two countries on normalizing ties.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted the presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi as saying that the meeting was “deep, open and constructive in terms of the spirit and the goal of achieving positive results”.

Nafi said that both sides discussed implementing what Washington and Khartoum agreed on during the previous rounds of dialogues.

“The things we agreed on were implemented very satisfactorily and we reached a reasonable agreement on many other issues and both sides are happy” he said.

But the daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat published in London quoted unidentified Sudanese officials as saying that the dialogue “stumbled into the issue of Abyei which left no room to sufficiently discuss other items on the agenda”.

The US envoy told reporters today that he had little success in bridging differences between the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) on the dispute over the oil rich region of Abyei.

The officials told Al-Sharq Al-Awsat that the US delegation stipulated achieving security in Darfur and resolving the Abyei dispute “which meant the talks could not to advance a great deal”.

But Williamson said the talks “were not too bad” and said that the negotiations tackled the Darfur crisis and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

However it was not clear if the bilateral talks have been concluded as scheduled. The head of US affairs in the Sudanese foreign ministry Abdel-Basit Al-Sanoosi told SUNA late Monday that the meetings will resume tomorrow to address remaining issues.

“There has to be changes on the ground before any improvement in relations” the US envoy said.

He further said that tougher sanctions remain an option on the table if the US president Bush deems them necessary.

But following the Rome negotiations the Sudanese government decided to release containers belonging to the US embassy that was being held by custom authorities in Port Sudan for over a year.

The containers contained equipments that were to be used for new embassy complex in south Khartoum that was under construction for over two years.

The daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat quoting unidentified Sudanese official said that the US administration agreed to “re-open a bank account for the Sudanese embassy in Washington” in return.

Last month Washington also released a number of Sudanese inmates held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay.

The US Department of Treasury also appeared to have held back on punishing foreign companies for violating Sudan sanctions despite an earlier announcement in February of their intention to do so.

Eliasson cancels Geneva meeting, announces new Darfur envoy to be appointed

(ST)-Jan Eliasson, the U.N. Secretary General special envoy to Darfur said today here he cancelled a planned meeting to discuss security issues in the strife-torn region of Darfur. He further announced that a new joint mediator will be soon appointed.

The UN envoy, who seems more and more dealing in solo without his African counterpart, told the press in the Sudanese capital today that he had to adjourn Geneva meeting due to the rejection of the two main rebel groups to take part in the meeting.

As it was published by the Sudan Tribune last week, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdel-Whaid al-Nur had refused for different reasons to participate in the meeting.

Al-Nur in a meeting held with Eliasson last month in Paris indicated Khartoum has indicated that ceasefire means to force Sudanese government to implement the already signed ceasefire agreements and there is no need for more talks because it would be a waist of time particularly Khartoum used to not honor the signed deal.

While JEM declined the invitation because it does not accept the invitation addressed to a small breakaway faction. The rebel group had always blamed the mediation for involving groups without real presence on the ground in the peace process.

Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir — since the JEM coup of 10 May in the capital — also repeatedly said that his government would not negotiate with a group that fighting for regime change and not for Darfur plight.

Eliasson however expressed his determination to follow the talks on the security issues adding that he opted for a new approach based on bilateral contacts with the warrant parties.

"We regret this very much but we will now continue discussions with the different movements...the method that we will use for the time being will be bilateral contacts," rather than the scheduled roundtable, he said.

Since a meeting held in Geneva last March with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the mediation adopted the principle of security before peace talks, and abandoned its policy of rebel reunification.

Eliasson underlined the increasing deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and the Chadian dimension in the conflict which become a facture for further instability in the five year war torn region.

"It's a very negative trend and I am very disturbed...since the end of last year things have gone in the wrong direction," Eliasson said.

The UN envoy confirmed that a new joint envoy would replace him and Salim Ahmed Salim of the African Union.

Following the rejection of Darfur Peace Agreement by Al-Nur and Ibrahim, the African mediation encouraged the dissident factions from Abuja groups in order to create a large support for the peace deal.

However, Eliasson said would remain as an adviser of the new joint UN-African Union mediator.

SPLM says Abyei displaced should return home swiftly

(ST)-The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) stressed on the need to return the displaced population from the disputed area of Abyei following heavy fighting between the two partners of the national unity government.

SPLM deputy secretary general for northern sector, Yasir Arman told Sudan Tribune that talks with the National Congress Party on Abyei focus on the urgent humanitarian situation of the displaced persons from Abyei.

The SPLM accuses the NCP of expelling Abyei population to replace them by Misseriya Arab population.

He also added that the current talks deal with this pressing issue of the displaced from the one hand and ways to implement the Protocol of Abyei on the other hand. Nonetheless, he declined to give further details on the ongoing negotiation.

Arman further said that the two parties have formed a restricted committee to work out propositions for a meeting of the NCP-SPLM Executive Political Committee to be held next Wednesday.

The meeting will be headed by the Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and the southern Sudan government Vice-President Riek Machar.

[UN/Agencies](#)

UN Security Council delegation to discuss Abyei, Darfur in Sudan's visit

(ST)-A UN Security Council delegation will start tomorrow a three day visit to the Sudan to discuss the Sudan peace deal implementation and the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force into Darfur.

The delegation is in a five-country mission to Africa hoping that its presence would have a strong positive impact on the region's peace processes, stability and humanitarian conditions, Dumisani Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, said last week.

The delegation will arrive from Djibouti to the southern Sudan capital, Juba where it is expected to discuss the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the ongoing dispute between the two peace partners over the oil rich Abyei.

The British Ambassador to the United Nations, John Sawers, who will lead the delegation to the Sudan, said the focus would return to what was needed to keep the CPA in southern Sudan moving forward despite Abyei row.

The Council delegation will move from Juba to the capital of North Darfur El Fasher where are the headquarters of the UNAMID peacekeeping mission to assess the situation in the troubled region.

Sawers indicated last week that the visit of the delegation to Darfur would focus on the political process and the possibility of appointing a head mediator.

In Khartoum, the panel would discuss the CPA implementation and the Abyei issue. It also will tackle with the Sudanese officials Darfur peace process as well as the deployment of the peacekeeping troops.

UN delays Darfur security meeting

(AFP)-UN mediators were forced to delay a carefully planned meeting designed to address spiralling insecurity in Darfur because the two main rebel groups refused to attend, the special envoy said on Monday.

"We had planned it so concretely that we actually had a place and time in Switzerland but we were unfortunately prevented from starting this week as planned," the UN envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, told reporters in Khartoum.

"We regret this very much but we will now continue discussions with the different movements... The method that we will use for the time being will be bilateral contacts," rather than the scheduled roundtable, he said.

Eliasson, who in Paris and London met the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement and commanders of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) that attacked the capital last month, said they objected to the attendance of other rebels. The UN-brokered peace process stalled when talks in Libya last October were boycotted by both the key rebel factions.

Eliasson said the five-year Darfur conflict was deteriorating, citing the meltdown in relations between Sudan and Chad, the JEM attack on Khartoum, and separate fighting between north and south in the oil flashpoint of Abyei.

"It's a very negative trend and I am very disturbed... Since the end of last year things have gone in the wrong direction.

"If there is an escalation at this stage and at the same time the rainy season starts, we may enter a catastrophic situation," said Eliasson.

But he indicated that he intended to take a back seat once a joint African Union - United Nations mediator had been appointed.

"The (UN) secretary general (Ban Ki-moon), whom I met in Stockholm three days ago, has asked me to follow the issue on an advisory function," he said.

AU and U.N. to name joint Darfur mediator

(Reuters)-The African Union and United Nations are working to appoint a joint chief mediator to jumpstart efforts to bring peace to Sudan's Darfur region, U.N. Darfur envoy Jan Eliasson said on Monday.

The former Swedish foreign minister, who is also working on a new diplomatic initiative for Darfur, said the selection process was in its final stages.

"Our job was to re-energise the political process," he told journalists in Khartoum, where he was on a visit for talks with Sudanese officials.

Nevertheless, Eliasson said he would travel to Geneva on Tuesday for talks with regional players Chad and Eritrea, and would later meet international observers including the European Union before briefing the U.N. Security Council on June 24.

He said he was willing to stay on in an advisory function once the new mediator is in place, adding that the mediator should have a "very, very strong mandate."

"We will do everything we can to bring about restraint on the side of the parties, both government and movements at this stage," he said. "I hope they realise the futility of thinking of military solutions to this tragic problem."

He also lamented the slow pace of deployment of a joint U.N., African Union force for Darfur: "I am very depressed by what I am seeing."

UN Mission Calls On Darfurians to seek peace

(United Nations press Release)-A top official of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) called on Darfurians today to stop fighting and seek the path of peace.

Deputy Joint Special Representative Henry Anyidoho made the call at the Ad Da'en horse festival in South Darfur, where he spoke with principal Arab tribal leaders from the Rizegat community, local officials and intellectuals. The four-day festival, which ended today, provides a platform for tribal and ethnic reconciliation and mediation and has been an important date in the Darfurian calendar since the 1920s.

"Let's return to the path of peace," Mr Anyidoho said. "It is easier to stop than to continue fighting; why must you choose the more difficult option?" He stressed that UNAMID was working with all parties to the conflict, and called on Darfurians to banish any misconceptions and doubts about the neutrality of the joint force.

Mr. Anyidoho explained the mandate and role of UNAMID to the tribal leaders and reminded them that many peacekeepers from different parts of Africa had laid down their lives in the cause of peace in Darfur. "Don't let their sacrifices go in vain," he said, adding that the only way to honour them was to ensure that sustainable peace returned to the region.

He advised Darfurians to question themselves about the root causes of the fighting, adding that there could not be any development in Darfur in an atmosphere of rancour and conflict.

GoNU

President Al-Bashir welcomes UN SC delegation

(Al Ray Alaam)-President Omer Al-Bashir welcomed on Monday the tour of the UN Security Council delegation to Sudan, saying that the visit would reinforce the existing engagement policy between Sudan and the UN, reported Al Ray Alaam Arabic daily on Tuesday.

Sudan's Ambassador to UN Abdulhalim, who briefed Al-Bashir on the dimension of the visit, Al-Bashir told reporters the visit was an indication that the method of dialogue was rather better for Sudan and the UN than the method of confrontation.

He disclosed that the UN team would conduct "important" discussions with First Vice President and GoSS President Silva Kiir prior to their arrival at Khartoum, stressing that the UN team would meet in Khartoum with Vice President Ali Osman Taha, government-assigned of Darfur dossier and President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie as well as Foreign Minister Deng Alore.

He described the visit as "good opportunity" for the delegation to get acquainted with developments in Sudan.

He said that the government would discuss with the visiting delegation obstacles confronting the peaceful process, maintaining that the talks between the two sides would concentrate on thorny issues of Abyei and Darfur.

He added that situation in Darfur, CPA implementation progress; development aspects and the rehabilitation process would loom high in two dialogue's sessions with the government.

He noted that the team would proceed to Al-Fashir to meet with the government of North Darfur.

The Sudanese diplomat said the team would meet on Thursday President Al-Bashir before leaving for N'Djamena at the conclusion of its tour to Sudan.

Eliasson discusses with Khartoum officials revival of peace process

(Al-Sahafa)-UN Envoy to Sudan Ian Eliasson started negotiations with government officials in a bid to push forward the stalemated peace process in Darfur.

Eliasson would discuss with President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, President's Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman and Foreign Minister Deng Alore means of rejuvenating the peace process, improving the security situation and the ceasefire issues.

Ministry of International Cooperation confirms receiving 395 million dollar from EU to support elections

(Alsehafa)-The Ministry of International Cooperation has announced that the EU allocated the sum of 395 m \$ to boost the general elections process in the country in the context of Oslo Donors Conference, held recently.

He stressed the necessity of bringing in competent institutions that curtail the implementation of the donors' to their agenda, indicating that the donors excluded Darfur and setting the prevalence of peace there as a pre condition.

Minister of International Cooperation Altigani Salih Fidail told the foreign affairs parliamentary committee that the US was considered as the biggest contributor in Oslo Conference as it had contributed 640 m \$ beside Sweden and Britain.

He said that the EU donated 500 m dollar, 395 of which to support the elections and between 115-450 m \$ for humanitarian assistances.

NCRC insists settling differences over election bill by the presidency

(Alkhartoum)-National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) stressed the importance of settling differences over Electoral Bill by the presidency institution.

The commission said the bill was bound with specific date provided for by CPA and that considerable political consensus was required.

NCRC Chairperson Dr Ismail Haj Musa ruled out possibility of settling the differences on the bill through mechanical majority in the parliament.

However, he said the two partners need more political consensus on the act. Musa noted that the two partners could compromise the differences through making concessions by both parties.

Britain rejects linking between expulsion of British officer from Darfur and peace initiative

(Alsudani) -The British Embassy in Khartoum rejected linkage between the expulsion of a British general, working as UNAMID Chief of Staff and the peace initiative proposed by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

An official at the Embassy's information bureau, who asked to be anonymous, told the paper that the expulsion of the British general was the concern of the UN and there was no relation between the two issues.

Sudan ruling party accuses SPLM of backtracking on elections law

(ST)-Sudan ruling National Congress Party (NCP) accused the southern ex-rebels Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) of reversing course on the proposed national elections law.

The head of Sudan's National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Taher said in press reports that the SPLM endorsement of the law is well documented.

“This is not the position of the SPLM and different from what was said in the assembly approving the law” he said.

Al-Tahir was responding to statements by Yasir Arman, the SPLM deputy secretary general for northern Sudan and member of the NCP-SPLM Executive Political Committee, in which warned against attempting to pass the elections law “by manipulating the parliamentary majority”.

Arman said such a step “will divide the government of National Unity” and stressed that the SPLM will vote against it. The SPLM official said there is one issue remaining regarding the law which is its integrity and applicability on the state and national level.

But the National assembly chief challenged the SPLM stance and said that Sudanese presidency is reviewing the law and will send to the legislators to deliberate on it.

The electoral law has sparked heated debates among political parties particularly the issues of proportional representation, women representation and the number of constituencies.

The SPLM position — as it is agreed with the political forces – is to distribute the constituencies 50% elected by proportional representation system and 50% of the seats are elected by majority election system. Women are represented by 50% of the proportional representation lists.

The NCP wants 60% for the majority election system and 40% for the proportional representation system. Regarding women, it proposes to establish separate lists on the state level and the list that obtains the highest votes will have all the seats.

[GoSS](#)

[South Sudan parties discuss in Juba CPA implementation](#)

(**Sudan Vision**)-Southern parties' bloc in the National Assembly will hold their first conference in Juba during the period 7-10 June 2008 as Dr. Stanslaus Wani, member of the conference preparatory committee, said the conference will look into creation of a mechanism for southern parties for cooperation as well as in discussing the obstacles that impede the progress of CPA implementation.

He further indicated that the conference will seek to raise the awareness of southerners so that they can make their options at the referendum in 2011, adding that raising awareness activities will include seminars and explanation of the peace agreement.

He expressed the bloc's readiness to aid the two partners to implement the peace agreement, noting that some southern parties outside the bloc will participate in the

conference such as the Sudanese National Labor Party and South Sudan United Party in addition to civil society organizations, leading business owners, women and youth representatives, SPLM, NCP and the other northern parties.

Wani stated that the southern parties' bloc has also invited GoSS President to address the inaugural session, disclosing that this session will also be addressed by Peter Abdelrahman Sule, Chairman of the southern parties' bloc in the National Assembly and representatives of political parties in the South.

The southern parties' bloc in the National Assembly comprises six southern political parties: SANU chaired by Dr. Toby Madut Parek, the United Democratic Front chaired by Peter Abdelrahman Sule, the South Sudan Democratic Forum chaired by Martin Elia, the United Salvation Front Chaired by Joseph Malwal, USAP (1) chaired by Jospheh Ukel and USAP (2) chaired by Eliaba James Surur.

Darfur

Two Darfur rebel factions agree to merge by July

(ST)-Two rebel factions pledged in an agreement sponsored by the Libyan government to merge their movements in one group by the end of the next July.

The Sudan Liberation Movement-Unity Command led by Abdelalla Yahya Ahmed and the United Front for the Resistance led by Bahar Idriss Abu Garda agreed on June 1 in the Libyan capital Tripoli to unite their two groups within one month.

Libyan minister for African Affairs, Ali Abdelsalam Triki attended the signing ceremony.

Mahgoub Hussein the SLM-Unity spokesperson said "the parties stressed the need for full unity of action in order to end the suffering of refugees, IDPs, and achieve a just peace that addresses the root causes of the problem as well as to realise the aspirations of Darfuri."

The SLM-Unity is mainly composed of former commanders and politicians who worked with the current Senior Presidential Advisor Minni Minawi who signed the Darfur Peace Agreement with the Sudanese government in May 2006.

The United Front for the Resistance is a breakaway group from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) it was formerly called JEM Collective-Leadership.

The talks between the two factions had started since last year but JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim, who had a political agreement with SLM-Unity before Sirte talks last October, was opposed to such rapprochement with his former leading commander Abu Garda.

JEM leader arrested in Gedarif

(Al Ray Alaam)-The security authorities in Gedarif State arrested on Monday brother of JEM Chief, who was in charge of the logistical operation during the attack on Omdurman last May.

Minister of government affairs at Gedarif State Dr. Gurashi Bukhari identified him as Awad Alnour Ushar detained at Gedarif hospital mosque, along with other JEM fighters.

He said that JEM's commander of the artillery was also detained at Gubaisha town, Gedarif State ,while he was hiding in a house, saying that the detainees were transported to Khartoum.