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Highlights

Main News

NCP officials say final settlement on Abyei will be within 48 hours

(Al Ray Alaam, Alsaahafa, Akhbaralyoum, Alsudani)-As the UN SC delegation announced that the NCP and the SPLM decided to resort to international arbitration to rule on the future of the disputed area of Abyei between the two parties, the joint executive committee of the two sides notified the delegation that the two partners reached an agreement providing for calming the situation in the area, reported Al Ray Alaam on Thursday.

A reliable source told the paper that the option of arbitration was chosen among four others, saying that the other options were to summon the experts to defend their report on Abyei boundaries, set up a transitional administration and appeal to the constitutional court.

Earlier, NCP leading member Aldirdiri Mohamed Ahmed told reporters, following the meeting with the delegation, that Abyei committee submitted a joint paper to the delegation on the progress of the implementation of the CPA, adding that the delegation hailed the progress on the CPA implementation.

Assistant of the President of the Republic, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, has briefed the visiting Security Council members on the situation in Sudan and the efforts of GoNU for reaching peace in Darfur and implementing the CPA.

Alsudani quoted Sudan Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim, as saying that the President's Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie responded to questions and queries of the Security Council members on the implementation of the Hybrid Operation and the CPA as well as the situation in Abyei.

Dr. Nafie underscored the importance of the African nature of the troops of the Hybrid Operation, describing as claims of Sudan hampering of the operation as "unfounded".

He assured that Sudan fulfilled its commitments concerning the implementation of the Hybrid Operation, affirming the government adherence to the peace process in Darfur.

Dr. Nafie informed the Security Council delegation that such aggression on Omdurman by JEM proved that it was adopting agenda that have nothing to do with Darfur issue, but aiming at seizing power.

He. Nafie affirmed the government full support to the humanitarian operation and its commitment to the implementation of the humanitarian agreement signed with the UN on March 28, 2007.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor denied that the government was the only party to blame for the delay in the hybrid force deployment.

Alore said the international community should honor its commitment vis-à-vis the deployment of the force but it failed to do so up to now.

He admitted that the government has had obligations, saying that there were also commitments and measures to be done by the international community to deploy the hybrid operation in Darfur.

Britain Ambassador to SC said that the talks with government officials dealt with the government's efforts to solve Abyei crisis and the implementation of the CPA, adding maintaining that the implementation process was not progressing as it had been decided.

He pointed out to the state of frustration in the South, which, he noted, resulted in the awful incidents took place two weeks ago in Abyei.

South Africa' Envoy to the SC expressed the SC's willingness to exert "every effort" to preserve the CPA, stressing the council's encouragement to both sides in a bid to activate Abyei's mechanism.

Sudan's peace parties agree to ask international arbitration over Abyei

(ST)-The visiting Security Council delegation announced that the Sudanese peace partners decided to resort to international arbitration to determine the fate of the disputed Abyei area.

Head of Security Council delegation and South Africa Ambassador at the international body told reporters following a several hours meeting with the national unity government delegation that the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have agreed to request international arbitration to define the border of the contested Abyei.

"They have recognized that the issue of Abyei came up because they haven't agreed on the question of Abyei's border, and they decided that they will ask an international body to arbitrate this issue," Dumisani Kumalo said in a press conference on Wednesday.

UN envoy: Darfur security has not improved at all

(Middle East Online)-The head of Darfur peacekeeping on Thursday warned there could no security in the increasingly lawless Sudanese region until the world translates goodwill into facts and deploys all 26,000 promised troops.

As UN Security Council ambassadors visited Darfur, the joint special African Union-United Nations representative said the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping force "needs to be accelerated".

Five months after the force known as UNAMID became operational on December 31, only 7,600 troops and 1,500 police are on the ground - barely a third of the projected total of 19,500 soldiers and 6,500 policemen.

"Our aim is to deploy 80 percent by the end of this year," Rodolphe Adada said.

"Security has not improved in Darfur at all. We are in a region of lawlessness so it will remain unless UNAMID reaches full capacity. Therefore quick action is needed," said the former Congolese foreign minister.

"One of our main problems is that the political will-power of the international community for Darfur still does not translate into facts.

"UNAMID still lacks the capacity to carry out its mission. If we wait any longer, we don't be able to keep the trust of the local population."

In the five years since "African" ethnic minority rebels first rose up against the Arab-dominated regime in Khartoum and state-backed militias, the conflict has fractured into a maze of overlapping armed groups.

The peacekeepers' main problem is how to improve security to allow the humanitarian agencies to work more easily in the parched, remote and desperately poor region roughly the size of France.

"Our priority is security. The humanitarians are doing a magnificent job in Darfur but they cannot work properly because of the insecurity. WFP (World Food Programme) convoys are

But since a former AU mission was merged into UN-led command five months ago, only one Chinese company of sappers, numbering between 120 and 180, and a Bangladesh police unit have arrived to supplement African units.

Khartoum has refused to allow the deployment of Nepalese, Scandinavian and Thai soldiers, generally considered crack troops, and remains reluctant about any non-African troops reinforcing the mission.

Besides an offer from Ethiopia for a few utility helicopters, the force still lacks the air transport and cover desperately needed to support troops across the vast terrain with limited roads, and other transport vehicles.

Adada said he is optimistic, however.

"The situation has evolved a lot. We have set up a monthly mechanism to solve all the problems we encounter with the authorities.

"But strategic problems remain: for example the question of deploying non-African soldiers has been dealt with directly by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and President Omar al-Beshir."

After talks with the Security Council envoys on Wednesday, the Sudan government said that under an agreement with Ban, the Thai and Nepalese could join after Ethiopian and Egyptian battalions are on the ground.

"The Ethiopians and the Egyptians are arriving now, one Egyptian signals company has already arrived. At the end of June or beginning of July, they will be on the ground," said Adada.

The conflict has been exacerbated by the worsening relationship between Sudan and Chad, which shares a long porous border with Darfur.

Khartoum last month severed relations with Ndjamena, accusing Chad of supporting a Darfur rebel attack by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on the Sudanese capital in which more than 220 people were killed.

"When relations between Chad and Sudan go badly, then a solution in Darfur becomes more remote," said Adada.

As a result of the Khartoum assault -- the first time those decades of regional violence in Sudan has come so close to the seat of power -- the government has banned JEM from political dialogue, Adada said.

[UN/Agencies](#)

[UN SC delegation meets opposition parties](#)

(Al Ray Alaam)-The UN SC delegation was briefed on Wednesday by Umm, National Popular Party (NPP) and Unionist Democratic Party (UDP) opposition parties on the CPA, elections and Darfur issues.

Umma party's President Assistant Fadllala Burma Nasir said that the representatives of the parties discussed with the delegation the role played by the Sudanese political forces in the national concerns.

He said they assured the delegation on the necessity of running fair and free democratic elections, calling for the creation of an independent commission to supervise the elections.

However, the Umma party presented, a separate memo, the content of which would be revealed today at the party's premises.

[Memo to UN on child soldiers conscripted by JEM](#)

(Al Ray Alaam)-A number of civil society's organizations and the families of the child soldiers abducted and conscripted by JEM have intended to submit an urgent memo to the UN demanding the trial of JEM Chief Khalil Ibrahim.

[Some family members of victims said that JEM violated child rights stipulate in UN charters and international laws, saying that the recruitment deprived them from the right of education](#)

They urged the international community to move urgently for rescuing their children from hands of JEM and reunion them with families.

The relatives however describe JEM as worse than the French organization Arik De Zoe that abducted 103 children from Sudanese refugee camps prior to their transportation to France..

GoNU

Europe is willing to consider sanctions against Sudan over ICC, government accuses ICC Prosecutor of destroying peace in Sudan

(Alsehafa, ST)-The European Union is willing to consider penalties against Sudan should Khartoum continue to harbor suspected Darfur war criminals charged by the world court, a top diplomat said Wednesday.

French ambassador to the United Nations, Jean-Maurice Ripert, whose country assumes the rotating E.U. presidency next month, criticized Sudan's refusal to surrender two alleged war criminals to the International Criminal Court.

Ripert was speaking after a meeting with presidential advisor Nafie Ali Nafie. He was traveling in a U.N. Security Council mission, which held talks Wednesday with the Sudanese government during a 10-day tour of African trouble spots.

"France and the European Union are ready to consider additional measures against the government of Sudan if it continues to refuse to cooperate," Ripert told reporters in Khartoum.

"All the Europeans present supported me. It's the first time that six European countries (those in the U.N. Security Council) state clearly that this U.N. resolution must be respected," he added.

Three years ago, the Security Council referred Darfur justice to the ICC, and human rights watchdogs used the U.N. visit to Khartoum Wednesday to again urge the delegation to persuade Sudan to hand over suspects facing arrest warrants.

Sudan has consistently ignored ICC arrest warrants for secretary of state for humanitarian affairs Ahmed Haroun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kosheib, and says it has established its own court to try Darfur cases.

"It is time to respond to Khartoum's flagrant obstruction with a clear resolution reminding Sudan of its obligations to the court and to the victims," said Niemat Ahmadi from the faith-based Save Darfur Coalition.

Thursday, the U.N. Security Council mission is to travel to Darfur - the same day that ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will unveil details of a second case against senior figures in the five-year Darfur war.

The ICC issued arrest warrants for Haroun and Kosheib April 27, 2007. They are charged with 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including acts of murder, persecution, torture, rape and forcible displacement.

The 15 U.N. ambassadors Wednesday met Foreign Minister Deng Alor and Vice President Ali Osman Taha as well as Nafie.

Alor, who belongs to the southern former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement that has shared power with the National Congress of President Omar al-Beshir since the end of a 21-year civil war, said his party favored cooperation.

"I am not talking as a minister of foreign affairs. In this particular issue I'm speaking as SPLM and SPLM calls for cooperation. That's what I said in my briefing with the ambassadors," Alor said.

But Sudan's ambassador to the U.N., Abdalmahmood Mohamad, said Khartoum would never extradite any Sudanese to ICC and launched a stinging attack on ICC prosecutor Ocampo.

"We are not a member of the ICC. They have no jurisdiction over us. We will never submit any Sudanese citizen to The Hague," he said.

He said that allegations his government was involved in crimes against humanity in Darfur are "fictitious and vicious" and harmful to the prospects of peace.

International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo charged Tuesday in a report to the U.N. Security Council that "the whole state apparatus" of Sudan is implicated in crimes against humanity in the country's western Darfur region.

Mohamed accused Moreno-Ocampo of destroying the peace process with his charges and demanded he be held accountable.

Mohamed said that while the world was calling for peace in Darfur and rebels were going so far as to attack the capital itself, Ocampo had the temerity to make announcements that would only further encourage the rebels.

He said "It revealed his professional bankruptcy, he deserves no respect, not to say cooperation, because we are not going to cooperate with him in any form," he said.

The U.S. has called on the European Union to match U.S. financial sanctions against Sudan in order to force Khartoum to accept the deployment of a U.N.-led peacekeeping force in Darfur.

GoSS

Governor Awet; sworn in as SPLM chairperson in Lakes state

(ST)-Lakes state governor, Daniel Awet Akot, was sworn in today as chairperson of the Sudan People's liberation movement (SPLM) in the Lakes State, following his election.

After running neck and neck competition against two strong contenders, Governor has been confirmed today as SPLM chairperson at Lake state level and also a member of SPLM political bureau at GoSS structure level.

The Governor congratulated the SPLM members in the Lakes for the democratic atmosphere of the elections. He also pledged to cooperate and work with those who backed other candidates against him in order to maintain the unity of the party in the state.

"I forgive those people who delivered wrong word against me during SPLM congress. I will work fairly even with those who have not elected me; I will appoint them to work with me." He said.

The governor also urged the Lakes people to be united saying that division will lead only to weakening them. Further Awet appealed to stop fighting over cattle.

"Why are you killing your own brothers in the cattle camp, this time I will transport youth to preach for peace in the cattle camp" he said..

SPLM leading figure says Kiir capable of settling Abyei crisis

(Akhbar Alyoum)-SPLM leading member Aldo Ajo has said that differences between the NCP and SPLM over Abyei should not be a cause of war between the parties.

He described linkage between the realization of the peace and Abyei issue as states recently by US Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson as “incorrect”.

Ajo added that the SPLM’s convention, recently held in Juba, granted to FVP Salva Kiir full political and constitutional jurisdictions to settle any dispute facing the implementation of the CPA through the presidency institution.

SAF Commander to face justice for war crimes

(Sudan Tribune)-Members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly yesterday passed the speech delivered by the President of Government of Southern Sudan, Gen. Salva kiir Mayardit on the opening session of the Assembly last Monday with additions.

The house after a lengthy discussion on the speech endorsed that all the resolutions adopted by the 2nd SPLM National Convention would be implemented including bringing the command of the notorious brigade 31 of Sudan Armed Forces to book.

The brigade has been accused by the SPLM of spearheading the clashes between the former foes in the disputed Abyei region in which dozens were killed and thousands of civilians fled their homes over fear and mayhem from the area.

The endorsement comes barely a day after United States of America suspended talks aimed at normalizing relations between the two countries over impasse in Abyei, and possibilities of resumption of the talks remain slim.

Washington said the deadlock over the oil... rich region could unravel the three year old Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005 in Kenya to end the 21 year conflict in Sudan.

Over 2.5 million people have died during the conflict and over 5 million others fled their homes to the neighboring countries.

The US Ambassador to the Sudan William Richardson Tuesday night said he tried his best to push the two parties to reach a deal on Abyei, but he said he left sad and disappointed for the failure of the two partners to reach a political compromise. President Bashir condemned the US move describing it as “diminish and unacceptable”.

“We as Government of Southern Sudan will implement the resolutions of the SPLM Second Convention on Abyei crisis”, said General Salva Kirr Maryadit on his opening remarks to the Assembly.

The President said Abyei protocol would neither be renegotiated nor will it be played with, it will only be implemented by the parties.

Meanwhile, a committee was set up by the house to draft resolutions on the situation in Abyei and to travel to the war ravaged area in order to assess the security and humanitarian situation there.

Dr. Jimmy Wongo who was the chairman of the committee was on Tuesday dropped by the House Speaker, James Wani Igga and appointed security committee chairman Daniel Deng Monyadit as the head. The team is expected to travel to Abyei early today.

Darfur

US praises Chinese actions in Darfur but asks for more

(ST)-Two senior U.S. officials on Wednesday praised China for increasing pressure on Sudan to change its behavior in Darfur but said Beijing can do much more to stop Khartoum from harming civilians in the Sudanese region.

Thomas Christensen and James Swan, deputy assistant secretaries of state for East Asia and Africa, respectively, also told lawmakers that the U.S. is pushing China to reconsider its close military ties with "repressive regimes on the continent."

The officials said in joint prepared testimony that China's support of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, and others "who rule through guns and intimidation, harms China's image and undermines its ability to play the role of responsible stakeholder in Africa's affairs."

Christensen and Swan said China has voted for a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur and pledged to send up to 300 military engineers to the region, where conflict has killed more than 200,000 people and resulted in more than 2.5 million displaced people or refugees.

But the officials told the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa that the U.S. is asking Beijing to stop Chinese companies' "substantial arms trade" with Sudan because the weapons are likely being used by the government in Darfur.

Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold said that the world should not tolerate "reckless behavior" from China, such as "when they sell weapons to Sudan that can be used to prolong the conflict in Darfur, or build new power plants that support Robert Mugabe's repressive regime in Zimbabwe."

China defends its efforts to stop violence in Darfur and has suggested that Western countries who condemn China's oil interests in Sudan are being hypocritical.

Energy-hungry China buys two-thirds of Sudan's oil output. Critics regularly urge Beijing to use its economic leverage to push Sudan's government more strongly to make peace in Darfur.

The two U.S. officials testified that, despite popular assumptions, China's large oil companies are not big players in Africa's energy industry, with the exception of Sudan.

They said that total output in Africa in 2006 by all Chinese producers was about one-third of that of a single U.S. firm, ExxonMobil.

The Darfur conflict began in 2003, when ethnic African rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated central government, accusing it of discrimination. Khartoum is accused of retaliating by unleashing Janjaweed militias, blamed for the worst atrocities against civilians. The government denies the accusations.

JEM defendants provide more details on Omdurman attack

(Alsaḥafa)-A number of JEM's defendants accused of the involvement in the attack on Omdurman last May delivered in their testimonies more information documenting the connection of Chad in the attack by providing JEM with 127 vehicles.

Unidentified sources told (SMC) that the coordination between the Chadian President Idris Debi and JEM leader was made through the Chadian officer Hassan Hamad, who provided JEM with the weapons of the attack.

Rebel group urges UN pressures on Sudan

(ST)-A Darfur rebel group has urged the UN Security Council to condemn the arbitrary arrest and torture of Darfuri in Khartoum following a rebel failed attack against the Sudanese capital last month.

The Sudan Liberation Movement – Unity Command asked the UN Security Council to open an international judicial inquiry about human rights abuses by the Sudanese government against Darfur people in Khartoum.

The Sudanese security service carried out a crackdown campaign against Darfuri in the capital after an attack by the Justice and Equality Movement against the government in

Khartoum on May 10. Khartoum spoke about the arrest of "the fifth column" working with the rebels inside the capital.

In its letter sent yesterday to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, the rebel group also requested to compel Khartoum to hand over Sudanese officials and militia chiefs suspected by the International Criminal Court of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It further asked to force Sudan to implement the different UN resolutions on Darfur.

On Thursday, the visiting UN Security Council mission is to travel to North Darfur - the same day ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is to unveil details of a second case against senior figures in the five-year Darfur war.

Three UNHCR employees abducted in West Darfur

(Alsahafa)-Two vehicles owned by UNHCR were carjacked on Wednesday, along with the drivers, near Dairti camp in El-Genaina town, West Darfur.

Informed sources told (Alsahafa) that the police authorities succeeded to restore one vehicle following intensive fire-exchange with the abductors.

They said that the police was chasing them in order to retrieve the abductees and the other car.