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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

UN/Agencies

Security Council asks to probe UN troops role in Sudan's Abyei

(ST) June 24, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — UN Security Council asked the Secretary General to probe the root cause of last May clashes between northern and southern Sudan armies and the role of the peacekeeping mission in the disputed area of Abyei.

In a presidential statement, the Security Council members welcomed on Tuesday the roadmap agreement to break the deadlock between the two peace partners over the definition of Abyei border. The agreement intervenes three years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005.

However, the Council asked Ban Ki-Moon to investigate the role played by the UN peacekeeping troops during the clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army on May 20. The fighting resulted in the displacement of the 50000 people from their homes.

The demand of probe also comes one week after harsh statements by UN envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson during an informal meeting of the UN Security Council against the United Nations mission in Sudan forces in Abyei.

He accused UNMIS of hiding in their barracks during the fighting instead of protecting Sudanese civilians in line with their mandate.

However, the UN special envoy for Sudan Ashraf Qazi rejected the accusation saying UNMIS has "neither the capacity nor the mandate to militarily intervene or to provide law enforcement functions." Law enforcement is the government's responsibility, he added.

The presidential statement called on all sides to allow immediate humanitarian relief to be brought to the displaced and support for their voluntary return to their former homes as soon as an interim administration and agreed security arrangements are in place.

The members of the Security Council further urged the UN mission to deploy personnel in and around Abyei as needed to help reduce tensions and prevent an escalation of the conflict.

"The Security Council urges the parties to use the opportunity created by the signing of the Road Map to resolve all outstanding issues related to CPA implementation and welcomes the parties' commitment to take unresolved issues to arbitration as necessary," the statement said.

SRSG appreciates Roadmap on Abyei (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) SRSG Mr. Ashraf Qazi has commended the NCP and SPLM roadmap agreement on Abyei.

In press statements following his meeting with President Bashir yesterday, Mr. Qazi said he had briefed the President on UNMIS activities and confirmed the Mission

support to the parties to CPA to complete its implementation. He told SUNA that the meeting also focused on issues of development, reconstruction and UN role to promote the peace process in the country.

Parliament asks UNMIS to investigate Zambian troops

(**Sudan Tribune**) members of southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) yesterday asked UNMIS to investigate Zambian troops accused of digging defensive trenches for SAF to fight the SPLA last month.

This call came after a day long debate on the Assembly's report brought by the parliamentary committee set up early this month to visit Abyei area for fact finding mission, following skirmishes between SAF and SPLA in which dozens were killed and 90,000 people uprooted from their homes. "the Abyei situation is bringing us closer to Kosovo situation. This is a very painful situation in our country" said David Nailo Mayo (SPLM Eastern Equatoria).

Some MPs earlier lost their patient over the situation in Abyei with some recommending declaration of unilateral independence of southern Sudan. "if we are yearning for the independence of southern Sudan, it is the right time now" said Bol Gatkuoth (SPLM Nasir County). He rebuked the NCP to respect documents it has signed with its partners to avoid future political crisis. He said the situation in the disputed region shows that the partnership between SPLM and NCP was not working.

Mabior Leek Deng (USAP Jonglei state) accused UNMIS troops in Abyei of becoming part of the war in Sudan by digging trenches for the SAF brigade 31, who are being accused of spearheading violence in Abeyi.

The lawmaker recommends that the troops be investigated and if found guilty should be told to quit Sudan because their presence was useless.

"they are here looking for employment" said Pascal Badindi (SPLM western Equatoria State). Badindi said the UNMIS troops were nearly dismissed from western Equatoria State recently by the Governor Jemma Nunu Kumba after they ran hiding when LRA attacked civilians Nabanga this month.

According to the 2005 CPA, UNMIS mandate was to protect civilians and monitor the implementation of the north-south accord. But political commentators accused the troops of now being biased to their mandate.

The Assembly however, passed the report unanimously yesterday including bringing the command of the SAF brigade 31 to book.

In another new development, preliminary figures released yesterday shows that over 300 people have been killed during the fighting between SAF and SPLA recently in Abyei. According to the area MP Deng Arop Kuol, SAF brigade 31 were still looting properties and burning down houses in Abyei now.

The report to be discussed by southern Sudan Legislative Assembly today indicated that IDPs were gripped by panic and fear as SAF Antinov bomber continues to hover over the villages housing the IDPs.

[GoNU](#)

CPA partners reach final agreement on Electoral Act

(Al-Khartoum) The newspaper has learnt that NCP and SPLM have reached a final agreement on the electoral law at yesterday's meeting.

According to informed sources, the parties agreed that geographical representation would be 60%, 40% for propotional representation, the electoral college would be state level not national and women would be represented by 25%.

Civil Service Commission listens to report on southerners' recruitment

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The National Civil Service Commission held a meeting during which it listened to a report by the chairman of the committee on recruitment of southerners in civil service. According to the report 691 out of 1049 southern applicants have been recruited in ministries and other institutions.

Sudanese official and Darfur rebel chief to skip Washington conference

(ST) June 24, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — A Sudanese presidential adviser and a Darfur rebel chief declined invitation to participate in a conference organized in Washington to discuss Darfur crisis, its impact on Sudan and the region.

Gazi Salah Eddin Attabani and Abdel Wahid al-Nur said today that they would not take part in a conference organized by Executive Research Associates and Manchester Trade at The Madison Hotel in Washington on Wednesday 25 June.

According to a press statement issued by the organizers of the conference entitled "Darfur and its Impact on Sudan and the Region" aims to discuss the history of the conflict, the parties involved, and potential solutions to deal with the crisis.

The Sudanese presidency said that Adviser Attabani is in Khartoum and will not take part in the symposium. Contacted by Sudan Tribune the SLM chief also said he will not travel to the meeting.

Two other members of the ruling National Congress Party will present papers in the conference: Eltigani Salih Fidail - Sudan Minister for International Cooperation, and Sayed Mohamed El-Hassan El-Khatib - Centre for Strategic Studies, Khartoum. While the Sudan People's Liberation Movement is represented by Laual Deng Lual - State Minister for Finance and National Economy.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is also represented by two speakers Tahir Elfaki - Head, Legislative Council, and Abdullahi Osman El-Tom, Head of the Bureau for Training and Strategic Planning.

Ministry of Justice inserts anti-genital mutilation article in the Criminal Act

(**Al-Ayyam**) The Ministry of Justice announced the insertion in the Criminal Act of an article that will penalize the family and the practitioners of female genital mutilation.

Weather forecast source: Temperature likely to shoot up all over the country

(**Ray Al-Shaab**) Khartoum Airport weather forecast source said temperature was expected to rise during the forthcoming 24 hours across the country. The highest temperature was reported to be 47 degrees in Atbara and Karima yesterday.

JDB to discuss Abyei roadmap today

(**Al-Sudani**) The Joint Defence Board (JDB) will hold an extraordinary meeting today to follow up deployment of 640 JIUs personnel in Abyei.

The Dinka of the area are still displaced living outside the town while the Messeriya expressed readiness to receive them in Muglad.

According to JDB spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pior Ajang the agenda of today's JDB meeting at SAF Officers Club includes implementation of presidency decisions and JIUs deployment in Abyei. He said SAF brigade 31 would be withdrawn from Abyei by the end of this month. He described security situation in Abyei as relatively calm.

Chad, Sudan generals discuss border violence

DAKAR (**Reuters**) - Army generals from feuding neighbors of Chad and Sudan met on Tuesday to discuss how to patrol their common border zone, where a rebel offensive overran several Chadian towns this month.

The talks in Senegal are a follow-up on a peace deal the countries' presidents signed here in March which has failed to end years of fighting on a border where each country accuses the other of helping marauding rebel groups.

General David Ngomine Beadimadji led a team of Chadian military experts, while Sudanese General Ibrahim Ezzedin led his country's delegation. Negotiations began on Tuesday, a day late due to the late arrival of the Sudanese.

"Chad will supply its own soldiers to patrol its own border, Sudan will supply its own soldiers to patrol its own border, and the peace and security force will become a mechanism for observing the two countries," Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio told reporters at an opening ceremony on Monday.

Senegal and Libya, both members of a "contact group" following implementation of the Dakar peace deal, had identified 10 sites suitable for border surveillance posts, he said.

"With aerial surveillance, and if we have the means for satellite surveillance -- maybe with the help of our Western friends -- perhaps we can start identifying the troop movements, identify who is coming and what they are doing," Gadio said.

Representatives of France, United States, Great Britain and the United Nations attended the opening ceremony.

U.S. provides additional \$4 mln for Sudan humanitarian flights

NAIROBI, June 25 (Xinhua) -- The U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is providing an additional 4 million U.S. dollars to the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Sudan.

The U.S. agency said in a statement received here Wednesday that the contribution brings the total U.S. contribution to UNHAS in Sudan to 7.2 million dollars in fiscal year 2008.

"The UNHAS flights in Sudan provide an important service, as ground transportation is very dangerous due to ongoing violence," said USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore.

"We are working with all necessary parties to ensure continued humanitarian access so the international community can get aid to those in need."

Early this month, the UN World Food Program said ability of 14,000 aid workers to travel to Darfur and other parts of Sudan will be reduced with immediate effect due to a lack of funding for the Humanitarian Air Service.

WFP said its air service needs an infusion of 20 million dollars by June 15 in order to avoid some of the cuts and maintain full service through the coming months.

The statement said the U.S. contribution, along with timely donations from the UN Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan and the European Commission, will allow UNHAS to continue operating during the critical period of the upcoming rainy season.

"Further reductions in air service would have impaired the ability of humanitarian organizations to respond to the needs of the people of Sudan," it said.

"In addition, fewer UNHAS flights would reduce the ability to respond to urgent medical evacuation requests and necessary staff relocations caused by insecurity."

USAID said the latest UNHAS funding is in addition to the nearly 580 million dollars in emergency assistance provided by the U.S. in fiscal year 2008 to assist those in need in Sudan and Eastern Chad.

The United States is the single largest donor to Sudan, providing half of all humanitarian assistance.

The United States has contributed more than 4 billion dollars in humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad since 2005.

[GoSS](#)

Nine persons killed and wounded in clashes between SPLA and Hawazma tribe in Southern Kordofan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Seven persons killed and two others wounded in a clash between SPLA soldiers and a group of Hawazma tribals in Rashad area in southern Kordofan. A source told the newspaper that SPLA soldiers ambushed a lorry carrying Hawazma tribals.

Sources said the Governor of the State arrived in Khartoum yesterday by special plane and they did not rule out that he would discuss the issue with the relevant authorities in the centre.

UNMIS workers go on strike

(The Citizen) Work came to standstill Tuesday morning at UNMIS offices in Juba, as the local staff lay down tools, alleging mistreatment by their international colleagues.

However, the strike was called off after 6 hours of talks between the administration and a committee that represented the national workers led by Nazar Juma who also leads the National Staff Association at UNMIS.

The worked-up workers said that the intensity of harrassement was first felt last year when one international staff quarreled with a national staff over unfounded reasons.

The striking staff were demanding the immediate arrest of a security guard who had beaten up one of the national security staff to the point of being hospitalized, before the guard was deported.

According to Kenneth Woja, Secretary of the National Staff Association, national staff are being discriminated against by international staff in all areas, citing job contracts, water, toilets, clinic and the shopping centre. he said the international staff use abusive words against national staffs.

One national staff member claimed e-Pass (electronic performance appraisal system) being used as a tool for intimidating national staff. Another source among the striking staff claimed sexual harassment.

UNMIS administrative officer Liban Haji has denied the discrimination allegations adding his office was open for all national staff to present any grievances any time.

The two sides said a special investigation committee will come from Khartoum and results of investigation will be made known to all staff. With regard to national staff not allowed to shop at the PX, Mr. Haji said it was GoSS that stopped them from selling to nationals. He said it is a duty free shop so nationals can not buy because the government want them to pay tax.

Darfur

Former envoys call for international summit on Darfur peace

(ST) June 24, 2008 (UNITED NATIONS) — Former UN and African Union envoys for Darfur on Tuesday called for an international summit on the 5-year-old conflict to pressure Sudan and rebel groups to end violence and restart stalled peace talks.

Eliasson confirmed recently that he and his AU counterpart are to be replaced by a joint mediator to head the UN-AU team charged with peace talks in Darfur. The two former envoys expected to remain as advisers for the new envoy.

In a bleak report to the U.N. Security Council disclosed by Reuters, UN special envoy Jan Eliasson said there was "reason to seriously question whether the parties are ready to sit down at the negotiation table and make the compromises necessary for peace."

Eliasson and his African Union counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim said international organizations, the 15 members of the Security Council and other U.N. member states should pressure the government and rebels to end hostilities and make peace.

They said that a "high-level international meeting" including Sudan, Security Council countries, other major powers and African states, as well as probably the rebels, might help force Khartoum and the rebels to make peace.

"As a new approach is required in dealing with this crisis, such a meeting will provide a unique opportunity for reflection, consideration and action," Salim told the council.

Eliasson said a summit would provide an opportunity for countries to use their influence and "bilateral leverage" to pressure Khartoum and the rebels to resume peace talks.

Salim made it clear that negotiations between Khartoum and the rebels had ground to a halt.

"The political process has reached an impasse," Salim said. "There is a need to rethink the strategy on the way forward."

Since a foiled attack carried by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) against the Sudanese government in Khartoum on May 10, the government says it does not want to negotiate with JEM which Khartoum says is backed by Chad.

Eliasson and Salim both listed several things that must happen if there was to be peace in Darfur.

First of all, the 2005 peace deal between northern and southern Sudan that ended two decades of civil war must be fully implemented so that the Sudanese government could show it is a trustworthy partner.

Secondly, Chad and Sudan needed to normalize relations and put an end to the escalating violence, they said. Both Chad and Sudan accuse each other of supporting rebel groups that oppose the other's government.

Finally, peace talks must resume and UNAMID must be fully deployed. Western countries have blamed Khartoum for the slow deployment, accusing it of handpicking nationalities and blocking non-African contingents.

But U.N. officials complain that troop-contributing countries have failed to provide essential hardware, such as helicopters, which UNAMID need to travel across Darfur, a region roughly the size of France.

Salim warned the council that even if all 26,000 UNAMID troops were deployed in Darfur, they would not bring calm to western Sudan if the government and rebels did not want peace.

International experts estimate that some 300,000 people have died and another 2.5 million been left homeless because of the conflict in Darfur. Khartoum says 10,000 have died.

Sudan contemplated extraditing Darfur suspects to ICC

(ST) June 24, 2008 (WASHINGTON) –The Sudanese government considered turning over two suspects accused of war crimes in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC), a senior Sudanese official told Sudan Tribune today.

The official who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter said that the leadership of the National Congress Party (NCP) “is getting very nervous over the upcoming announcement by the ICC of new suspects”.

A year ago, the judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants on the Darfur case against Haroun and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

The senior official said that the NCP held an unpublicized meeting recently that included the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, 2nd Vice President Ali Osman Taha, presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail and state minister for foreign affairs Ali Karti among others.

According to the official, Karti made a presentation to the NCP leadership in which he outlined the “difficult position” the government will be in if senior officials are charged by the world court of war crimes.

Karti recommended that Haroun and Kushayb being extradited to the Hague “as a protection from further indictments” the official said.

Al-Bashir appeared to be in agreement with the proposal, the official said, as well as others who were present but that Vice President Taha staunchly opposed it “on the grounds of preserving Sudan’s sovereignty”.

Taha was the top official in charge of handling the Darfur crisis during 2003-2005. He secured the release of the notorious Janjaweed leader Musa Hilal from prison to help mobilize Arab tribes to crush the Darfur rebellion.

Hilal was serving a jail sentence for leading an armed robbery against the Central Bank of Nyala in which one policeman was killed.

The leak of the meeting comes a few days after the Sudanese president swore 3 times not to surrender any Sudanese citizen to the ICC.

Last week the UN Security Council (UNSC) and European Union (EU) issued formal statements voicing support for the work of court in Darfur. The EU threatened sanctions against individuals obstructing cooperation with the ICC.

The ICC prosecutor is also due to name new suspects next month likely to include senior Sudanese officials.

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statue, but the UN Security Council (UNSC) invoked the provisions under the Statue that enables it to refer situations in non-State parties to the world court if it deems that it is a threat to international peace and security

Resolving Darfur conflict needs fixing Sudan-Chad proxy war

(ST/AFP) June 24, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — UN diplomats trying to solve the conflict in Darfur must better cooperate with international peacekeeping efforts in the region and better address the proxy war between Chad and Sudan, analysts say.

"They are so interrelated," says General Balla Keita of UN-led peacekeeping forces in West Darfur that shares a long, porous border with Chad.

"If you want to solve, for example, the problem here in Darfur you will never never achieve it without solving the problem in Chad."

The general commands 1,900 Nigerian, Rwandan and Senegalese soldiers, an assortment of multi-national liaison officers and military advisors — around half his promised capacity — with a mandate to secure the civilian population.

It's not the mission of UNAMID (United Nations and African Union mission in Darfur) or its mandate to secure the porous border, which in many areas is not even marked, between Chad and Sudan.

El Geneina, the main town in West Darfur less than 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the border, is a muddy, impoverished settlement were residents pick out Chadian opposition from bands of armed men driving around in trucks.

Sudan denies any support of Chadian rebels while Chad makes the same denial over rebels in Darfur, including the Justice and Equality Movement that attacked Khartoum last month. After that attack, Sudan severed diplomatic relations with Chad.

"Everybody knows that the Chadian opposition is here in Darfur. Everybody knows that JEM are in Chad," says Keita.

But direct involvement in Chadian affairs is beyond the mandate of the UN negotiating team on Darfur that launched failed peace talks eight months ago.

"I always tell them 'so why are you just dealing with the Darfur problem? You guys should involve yourselves also solving the problem in Chad and solving the problem then between the two countries'," said Keita.

"If you focus just on solving the problem in Darfur, you will never succeed. Never. It's not possible. It should be a global strategy," said Keita.

"We need to have somebody coordinating the work and handling the issue as a unique and global issue. That is what I'm not seeing," he said.

Fadallah Ahmed Abdallah, senior El Geneina municipality official, agrees.

"Any solution must take the two countries altogether in a coherent mission... The international community must intervene to solve it. It cannot be solved alone," he says.

UN officials say they are encouraging regional and international partners to address the problem between Chad and Sudan. It's not their mandate to intervene directly.

"There are many things that the international community and the (UN Security) Council are doing. Probably they can do more and they are aware they can do more," one official said.

Asked whether Chad and Sudan were conducting a proxy war, he said: "Yes to a certain extent. Not an open war. It's a regional conflict."

Asked whether he should concern himself more with Chad, another official took issue with the mission being separate even from the UN Mission in Sudan, which oversees the end of a separate civil war between north and south.

"There shouldn't have been a separate mission for Darfur for every logical reason, delays, logistics, permissions for a new mission... When it was divided we couldn't even operate. It was almost impossible.

"People who control Darfur are appointed by Khartoum. The wali here doesn't decide anything. It is Khartoum. So for negotiations, you talk to this guy and then you go to Khartoum and back and forth," said the official.

Francois Grignon, Africa programme director at the International Crisis Group think-tank, backs strong coordination between UNAMID, EU peacekeepers in Chad and the UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

"At a political, operational and intelligence level they have to share information in order for all of them to fulfil their mandates," he said.

"I'm not sure we've reached the stage where UNAMID has the capacity or reached the level where they can put this as a top issue on the agenda," he said.

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