



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

UN envoy briefs Security Council on Darfur peace talks

(*SudanTribune.com*) UN special envoy Jan Eliasson said Tuesday that both Sudan's government and rebels concede that "there is no military solution" to the grinding conflict in Darfur.

After a closed-door Security Council briefing on his efforts to shore up the Darfur peace deal, Eliasson said he and his African Union (AU) counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim "met with understanding" from their Sudanese interlocutors.

He warned however of growing tribal warring in Darfur separate from government troop activities, and called for greater efforts to improve the humanitarian plight of Darfurians.

Eliasson welcomed the fact that Sudanese government forces have stopped aerial bombings of rebel positions in Darfur since February 11 in response to a UN request.

He however highlighted "the growing problem of tribal warfare" in Darfur, which he said has nothing to do with the Khartoum government.

UN frustrated by Sudan's foot-dragging on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) Security Council members voiced mounting frustration Tuesday at Sudan's perceived foot-dragging over UN plans for joint African Union-UN peacekeeping in strife-torn Darfur.

"There is a lot of frustration among council members," said South Africa's UN Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, who chairs the 15-member council this month.

A Western diplomat said African and European members of the council were particularly angry at Khartoum's perceived procrastination.

French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere expressed disappointment that Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir had not yet replied to a letter from UN chief Ban Ki-moon on a proposed joint UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

Sudan's UN envoy Abdulmohammed Mohammad meanwhile indicated that the letter was on its way but "will not contain anything new."

The new UN humanitarian operations coordinator to visit Sudan end of March.

AlSudanfi Top United Nations Humanitarian official, whose tenure began on 1 March, said today he is eager to see first-hand the dire humanitarian situation in the Sudan, as well as visit Chad and Central African Republic, both hosting Darfur refugees fleeing the war-torn Darfur region.

UN requests allocation of US \$56 for return of refugees to southern Sudan.

AlWihda UNHCR demanded yesterday the allocation of US\$ 56 millions to assist more than 125,000 refugees to return back to the South this year.

Return and reintegration of refugees is a huge task, says UNHCR. The program would cover about 102,000 refugees living in Congo, Central African Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda.

GoNU

Sudan, Eritrea to develop joint border with Qatari support

(SudanTribune.com) At a tripartite summit held in the Qatari capital, Doha, Sudan, Qatar and Eritrea have agreed to set up development projects that will be sponsored by the State of Qatar along the Sudan-Eritrea border. Bilateral relations were also discussed at the summit.

The three-way summit brought together the President Omar al-Bashir, the Emir of the State of Qatar, Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and the Eritrean President, Isayas Afewerki, and was hosted by the Emirate Chamber in Doha and follows an invitation from the emir of the State of Qatar.

The meeting discussed - according to the final communiqué - issues of mutual interest to the three countries.

The three leaders agreed to develop the areas along the Sudan-Eritrea border economically and provide services through development projects sponsored by the State of Qatar.

Presidents Al-Bashir and Afewerki expressed their thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by Sheikh Hamad to strengthen Sudanese-Eritrean relations.

Bashir and el Mirghani to meet by end of this month in Jeddah.

AlSahafa President Bashir is to meet with the leader of the DUP in Jeddah during participation of Bashir in the Arab summit to be held by the end of March. The meeting is to discuss the initiative proposed by the DUP to unify national ranks.

Minister of Interior: strict action against illegal arm bearers.

AlSahafa Controversial constitutional issues pertaining to the conflict between the ministry of interior and Khartoum state, would soon be resolved by a legislation that satisfy all parties, says Minister of Interior. He further adds that the ministry would take a tough action against illegal arm bearers.

Nafie: Agreement between peace partners over The Hague issue.

AlSahafa NCP and the SPLM have reached a reasonable agreement over the ways and means for dealing with the ICC and Darfur issues. Deputy NCP president said the SPLM have made proposals on how to deal with The Hague Court and Darfur issues.

Bashir: political and executive performance of South Kordofan State very weak.

Alwan: In an interview with president Bashir, following Doha Summit, the president said political and executive performance in South Kordofan state is the weakest among all states. The Executive has wasted a long time in the conflict over the leadership of the legislature which resulted in delaying the passing of the constitution.

Revenue monitoring commission complains to the presidency.

AlSudani National Revenue Monitoring and Allocation Commission (NRMAC) held the National Revenue Fund at the Finance Ministry responsible for delaying receipt of States' shares and revenues during the past January and February. NRMAC is to report the issue to the presidency. On the other hand, Ministry of Finance affirmed payment of northern states shares by 28% of total revenues.

NDA parliamentary group sticks to rejection of political parties act.

Rai AlShaab The Political Parties Act, which was passed recently by the legislature and signed by the President, is still rejected by the NDA parliamentary group. Atim, the deputy speaker described allegation of forging the parties act as irrational and political mockery. He called

upon them to apologize to provide evidences of the forgery or otherwise apologize to the parliament.

Sudan sees 520,000 bpd oil output in 2007

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan estimates average oil production for 2007 will run at 520,000 barrels per day (bpd) as new fields that were delayed last year are now fully on stream, the finance minister said on Monday.

Al-Zubeir Ahmed al-Hassan told Reuters in an interview that almost a year in delays of bringing the new crude blend to market had skewed the 2006 budget, which had anticipated revenue earlier than December when cash first arrived.

To mitigate the damage subsidies on local fuel consumption were cut and the government had to dip into the oil stabilisation fund, cash meant for the future of Sudan.

Southern Sudan/ SPLM

White Nile optimistic, South Sudan oil confirmed in 2007

(SudanTribune.com) White Nile Ltd. (WNL.LN) is "very optimistic" that the presence of oil will be confirmed in its South Sudan block this year following the start of drilling, Chief Executive Phil Edmonds said Tuesday.

Small U.K. Company White Nile is in a dispute with French oil major Total SA (TOT) over the right to drill the 67,000-square-kilometers Block B A.

Edmonds said that a first well should be drilled next month and two more this year, following the arrival of a Romanian rig through the Kenyan port of Mombassa.

He said that, after extensive seismic work on the block, the company estimates the block could hold 5 billion barrels of oil in place. Edmonds said that 11 prospects have been identified, including one with possibly 1.175 billion barrels in place.

Referendum on southern Sudan secession expected to be postponed.

AllIntibaha: South Sudan Census official expects postponing the census for six months due to delayed funding by the central government. He expected that this would result in delaying the referendum on self-determination for South Sudan.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

AU says Minawi troops kill two peacekeepers in Darfur

(SudanTribune.com) The African Union accused a former rebel group of killing two African peacekeepers in Sudan's violent west. A press release issued by the AU said former Darfur rebel troops opened fire on them on Tuesday.

Soldiers of the Sudan Liberation Movement faction led by Minni Minawi, which signed a peace deal with the government in May 2006, killed two in Graidia, in South Darfur, and a third soldier was critically injured, the AU Mission in Sudan said today in a press release. One AU source said the dead AU soldiers were Nigerian.

"This deplorable and condemnable act was perpetrated by gunmen believed to be elements belonging to SLM/A (Minni), which is in full control of Graidia." said the AUMIS.

This accident brings to a total of 11 AU military personnel killed on duty and one (1) missing, since the AU started its mission in Darfur in 2004.

US denounces genocide, says rights official to visit Darfur

(SudanTribune.com) The continuing genocide in Sudan's troubled Darfur region was the world's worst human rights abuse last year, the United States said Tuesday in a global report. "Genocide was the most sobering reality of all," the department said in the 2006 "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," noting that mass killings continued to "ravage" Darfur nearly 60 years after the world vowed "Never again!" following the Holocaust.

Just a day before senior U.S. diplomats expect to meet Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum, the State Department lashed out at the Sudanese government, blaming its military and proxy militia for the genocide in Darfur, the western Sudan region where more than 200,000 people have died and some 2.5 million have been displaced, according to some estimates.

Assistant Secretary of State Barry Lowenkron said he would travel to Sudan Thursday to talk with top leaders and visit Darfur. Lowenkron said he planned to spend several days in the western region of Darfur and travel to the southern capital of Juba to monitor implementation of a troubled peace agreement between rebels there and Khartoum before meeting with officials in the capital.

China supports AU, UN efforts for peace in Sudan's Darfur -FM

(SudanTribune.com) The Chinese government supports fully the consensus reached by the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese government on the Darfur issue, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said at a press conference on Tuesday.

President Hu Jintao had clarified the Chinese government's stance on the Darfur issue in Sudan, one of the eight African countries he visited earlier this year, Li said on the sidelines of the parliamentary annual session.

The stance was welcomed by the people of Sudan and its neighbouring countries and by the people of all peace-loving countries in support of justice, Li said.

The Chinese government has kept offering humanitarian assistance to Sudan's Darfur area and hopes that the international community tries its best to lend a hand to the area, he said.

Sudan ruling party doesn't want peace - Minawi

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan's ruling party has no desire to end the crisis in Darfur and is still largely to blame for the chaos there, a former rebel leader, who joined the government after a peace deal last year, said on Tuesday.

Minni Arcua Minawi said Sudan should hand over suspects to the International Criminal Court, in the first public split within the government led by President Omar al-Bashir, which has rejected sending Sudanese nationals for war crimes trial abroad.

The former Darfur rebel leader said his eight months in office in the Sudanese capital had been a disappointment.

He regretted being unable to persuade Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) to do more to end years of bloodshed in Sudan's western province.

"If there was political will from Khartoum then the situation in Darfur would be calm," Minawi told Reuters. "There is not heavy fighting now, but there is chaos."

Sudan to try three people on Darfur crimes

(SudanTribune.com) Sudan said Tuesday it will try three Sudanese on charges of crimes relating to the Darfur crisis in what appeared to be an attempt to pre-empt and the International Criminal Court's investigation into accusations of crimes against humanity in the war-torn region.

Details about the charges or alleged crimes were not available, but Sudan's official news agency, SUNA, reported that the trial would start Wednesday in the western Darfur capital of El-Geneina.

Among the three was Ali Mohamed Ali Abdelrahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, a member of Sudan's security forces who is one of two suspects sought by the ICC over accusations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Along with Kushayb, Judge Ahmed Abu Zaid also will try Capt. Hamdi Sharaful Din, also of the security forces, and Abdelrahaman Dawood Humaida, SUNA said. The news agency did not provide information about Humaida but said the three were in custody. It did not provide more details.

Egypt seeks to pilot Sudan out of Darfur crisis

(*SudanTribune.com*) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad About Gheiton Tuesday said Egypt is seeking to reach a formula piloting Sudan out of the Darfur crisis.

The remark was made in statements before leaving here, wrapping up a visit to Belgium, during which he attended the third meeting of the European-Egyptian partnership council.

The Egyptian top diplomat underlined the importance that Sudan should abide by international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions on this score.

A UN Security Council resolution adopted in March 2005 referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC), said About Gheit.

Chad refuses UN advance peacekeeping mission

(*SudanTribune.com*) Chad, which has rejected any U.N. troops to deal with spill over from the conflict in Darfur, has now refused to allow an advance team of military, police and civilian peacekeepers to visit the country, a U.N. official said on Tuesday.

Last month, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended peacekeeping operations of up to 11,000 soldiers and police in Chad and the Central African Republic to staunch the violence spilling over from the Darfur conflict in neighbouring Sudan.

Eastern Chad has 232,000 Sudanese refugees and 120,000 of its own citizens chased from villages in Darfur, mainly by government-armed Janjaweed guerrillas. Sudan and Chad support each other's rebels and in Chad, an insurgency last year sought to topple President Idriss Deby.

Officials in Chad, a central African oil producing nation, have opposed a U.N. military presence, especially in areas where it is fighting an insurgency, preferring police only.

Minnawi: USA has neither military motivations nor economic interests in Darfur.

Alwan The USA or other countries have neither military motivations nor economic interests in Darfur, says Minnawi, who met UK ambassador to Khartoum and UK

ambassador to the UN. The meeting discussed developments in Darfur and efforts exerted to conclude a peaceful solution.

Hostages released by armed men in Kalma camp in Nyala.

Akhbar Alyaum The six hostages who were abducted by armed men when they were on their way to Bilail (East Nyala) were released yesterday. The incident was instigated by the arrest of the security forces of two armed men on charges of banditry and carrying unlicensed arms. The six were kidnapped as hostage to ensure the release of the armed men.

SPLM calls Ministry of Justice to specify reasons behind Abu el Gassim detention (SLM leader) detention.

AlAyam SPLM asked the Ministry of Justice to clarify reasons behind the arrest of Abu Algasim A. Abu al Gasim. SPLM demanded that he should either be tried or released if not charged. SPLM also called for the release of all detained students, SPLM members included.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers Sima Samar entry.

AlRai AIAam A request received by the Ministry of Interior from the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Sudan Sima Samar to allow her enter the country. Ministry of foreign affairs spokesperson, Ali Al Sadig told the press yesterday that the request had been received and is under consideration with relevant bodies. The Spokesperson of the MFA said that GoS is studying this request.

Renewal of fighting between Abbala and Tarjam Tribes in Darfur

Rai AlShaab Three Tarjam tribesmen were killed and one injured when a group of Abbala looted 181 Cattle in Abu Jazu area. According to al Tarjam grand Nazir, the incident is the third of its kind after the last reconciliation conference. The Nazir accused the government of taking no action in this regard.

Other Developments

NGOs advised to see Equatoria counties officials for RRP Implementation

(SudanTribune.com) The commissioner of Torit County, Col. Massimino Alam has appeal to NGOs involved in water drilling to put more efforts in drilling and rehabilitating wells to enable people affected with shortage of water remain in their respective villages.

He says water, sector require stop priority that has to be programme in accordance to seasons. Therefore, he urges the involved NGOS to put more energy in water supply because people the state are now moving away from their villages in search for water places.

He further said another more important concern was schools rehabilitation and construction that ought to be given top priority because schooling reopening next April.

Col Alam advised RRP consortium members to separately hold special meeting with county commissioners than being invited for general meeting of the consortium.

Sudanese displaced return home in Blue Nile State

(SudanTribune.com) The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced today that more than 1500 internally displaced people (IDPs) have been assisted by IOM over the past month to voluntarily return to former homes in southern parts of the Blue Nile State, the UNMIS news bulletin reported.

By May, some 3,000 IDPs are expected to be assisted to return to areas surrounding Kurmuk from northern parts of the Blue Nile State in partnership with UNHCR. This will allow them sufficient time to get settled before the start of the planting and rainy season. Registration facilitated by UNHCR is ongoing to determine the overall number of IDPs to be assisted in Blue Nile State until the end of the year.

In one movement, an entire community was relocated by IOM from Jacob town to their new home in Khor Bodi.

The organized returns in Blue Nile State are part of an overall joint return plan for 2007 that was agreed upon by the Government of National Unity (GoNU), the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), the UN and IOM. Other operations include the voluntary return of IDPs from Khartoum to South Sudan and South Kordofan and helping those displaced in South Darfur return to home communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and elsewhere within South Sudan.