



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report

15 May 2008

By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Darfur rebel leader moves to safety after days on the run

(ST) May 14, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — the leader of the Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Khalil Ibrahim is in a safe location in Darfur, Sudan Tribune is able to confirm.

The Sudanese government announced a reward of \$250,000 for information leading to his capture. Sudan TV broadcasted a photo of JEM leader asking citizens to call a special hotline if they saw him.

The Sudanese defense minister has told reporters and lawmakers yesterday that his forces are following Ibrahim and that he is heading to the border area with the neighbouring Chad through the northern border of Northern Kordofan and Darfur states.

The failure of the Sudanese government to nab the JEM chief is likely to be a severe political blow to Khartoum which has implied that the arrest of the rebel leader is imminent.

Darfurian rebels staged a bold attack and fought fierce battles with the Sudanese army on the outskirts of the capital. However, the Sudanese government repulsed the attack and accused Chad of backing the assault.

Al-Bashir said in a televised statement that he holds Chad responsible of the foiled attack by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) troops against the Sudanese capital. He also announced that diplomatic relations with Chad have been broken.

Seven JEM elements captured in fresh clashes in Omdurman yesterday

(Ray Al-Shaab) In fresh clashes in Omdurman yesterday noon, authorities arrested seven JEM elements.

According to eyewitnesses, civilians have pounced on the arrested JEM elements and they could have been beaten to death had it not been for police intervention.

Commissioner of Omdurman Locality said the invaders have been crushed completely and the remaining elements who were hiding constitute no threat to the civilians and state.

The Commissioner said the weapons seized from JEM were displayed at Khalifa Mosque in Omdurman for people to see. The Commissioner said the weapons were enough to destroy the Capital. The exhibition will continue for two weeks under tight security.

450 of JEM's killed fighters buried in one grave, NISS detained 300 Sudanese and Chadian nationals, number of POWs reached 150, search in the Capital still continuing (Ray Al-Shaab)

The death toll among JEM fighters during attack on Omdurman last Saturday reached 450 and the bodies were buried in one unknown grave.

The paper said the Sudanese security forces arrested more than 300 Sudanese and Chadian nationals after JEM attack. The number of POWs reached more than 150 JEM fighters including women.

Meanwhile raid and search operations have continued in all parts of Khartoum to locate hiding JEM fighters.

Security sources told Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper that there was still big number of JEM elements hiding in residential areas that have not been located yet.

Police received around 11000 phone calls from citizens about the presence of suspects in various residential areas and public utilities saying these calls assisted in arresting JEM fleeing elements.

In one of the raids a JEM armed female was arrested.

The sources told the newspaper that about 50 JEM elements were arrested during raids and search operations.

The sources disclosed that the raid and search operations were not free of mistake; result in killing of a number of civilians and soldiers.

The sources said interrogation of POWs revealed new information. They revealed that 250 land cruiser vehicles and 6 other vehicle mounted with anti-aircraft guns started the drive for invasion from Umjaras area at Chadian border. The number of JEM soldiers aboard those vehicles was 2500 but those who have actually taken part in battle were about 1500. The force crossed the desert in three days until they reached northern Kordofan.

According to the POWs Khalil was commanding the group that reached White Nile Bridge linking Omdurman and Khartoum and Jamali (killed in battle) was leading the group targeting the Radio and Sulaiman Fadul was commanding the group tasked to attack Wadi Sayedna in Omdurman.

UN/Agencies

AJMC holds emergency meeting in Abyei, says concerned about situations in the area

(Al-Ahdath) AJMC in Abyei held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss renewal of fighting in the area.

UNMIS spokesperson Khaled Mansour told the newspaper yesterday that the parties agreed on measures to cease sporadic firing in Abyei adding that UN told the parties it was concerned of developments of the situation and the possibility of this confrontation leading to further aggravation of the security situation if the parties use destructive weapons that endanger lives of civilian population.

The fighting between SAF and SPLA yesterday killed and wounded about 24 persons on both sides as well as scores of civilians who were seriously injured.

Civilians were forced to take refuge to brigade 31 HQ for safety while others fled the town to get out of range of artillery fire, which continued for more than 12 hours.

According to eyewitness, the cause of the fighting was an altercation between two soldiers - SAF and SPLA.

SPLM official in Abyei Edward Lino has accused brigade 31 of indiscriminate firing, causing panic to the people. He said Messeriya soldiers in SAF have carried out the operation to promote tribal agenda.

However, the Chairman of Abyei Liberation Front Mohamed Al-Ansari has denied the charge and held SPLA responsible for escalation and renewal of fighting.

Darfur conflict threatens to enter new cycle of violence – top UN official (UN News Centre)

14 May 2008 – The Darfur conflict could lapse soon into another major cycle of violence and large-scale human displacement unless the parties retreat from their recent state of confrontation, the top United Nations peacekeeping official told the Security Council today.

Briefing Council members on the work of **UNAMID**, the hybrid UN-African Union mission in Darfur, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno said there has been “a deeply disturbing” recent deterioration in the security situation.

Last weekend’s attack by rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) members on Government forces on the outskirts of the capital, Khartoum, illustrated that the conflict – which has raged on and off since 2003 – had the potential to move beyond the borders of the Darfur region, which lies on Sudan’s western flank.

“We are very concerned that the movement of significant numbers of JEM fighters from Darfur all the way to Khartoum went undetected and took both UNAMID and the Government by surprise,” Mr. Guéhenno said.

“The incident underscores the serious shortfalls in the Mission’s resources, especially aerial reconnaissance capabilities.”

UNAMID has received unconfirmed reports that members of another Darfurian rebel group, the Unity faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), are gathering to attack El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state and the headquarters of the peacekeeping operation. There are also reports that elements of JEM and Chadian armed groups are assembling in West Darfur.

In the past six weeks, Sudanese armed forces have bombed rebel positions, including villages inhabited by civilians, violence has erupted between different rebel groups and banditry targeted UN staff and equipment has increased.

The Under-Secretary-General said these developments threaten efforts by the UN and AU Special Envoys to bring the warring parties in Darfur together for peace talks and could lead to a rapid intensification of the proxy war between neighbours Sudan and Chad.

Speaking later to reporters, he warned that thousands of people could be forcibly displaced from their homes in the next few months unless all sides pull back from violence. 150,000 internally displaced persons (**IDPs**) have already fled their homes in Darfur this year alone.

In total, more than 2.7 million people have become displaced because of the fighting between rebels, Government forces and allied Janjaweed militiamen and another 300,000 are estimated to have died, either through direct combat or disease, malnutrition or reduced life expectancy.

“Our great concern is [ensuring] that it doesn’t lead to further escalation,” he said, referring to the recent attacks near the capital and the deteriorating security situation. “It’s really essential now that all actors move away from the brink of going into another cycle of violence. Humanitarian law has to be respected by everybody.”

He also stressed the value of sending a message that political goals are not going to be achieved by the use of force, and will only be accomplished through dialogue.

Mr. Guéhenno told reporters that while he welcomed the unanimous support from Council members for an enhanced deployment plan for UNAMID, which currently has well below half of the planned 26,000 uniformed personnel in place, it was important for UN Member States, donors and others to back that support with actual troops and real political will.

Otherwise, he said, the mission will not have the capabilities to provide practical benefits for the suffering people of Darfur, especially those who have fled their homes and live in organized or makeshift camps.

UNAMID condemns attack on Omdurman

(Al-Ayyam) JSR Rodolphe Adada has condemned JEM attack on Omdurman. At a meeting with Presidential Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie yesterday Mr. Adada has expressed hope that the armed movements would renounce armed activity and come to the negotiation table to resolve the problem in Darfur.

For his part, the Presidential Assistant has commended UNAMID condemnation of JEM subversive operation hoping the International Community will continue putting pressure on armed movements and support GoS efforts to resolve the problem.

UN evacuates staff amid clashes in Sudan flashpoint

KHARTOUM, May 14, 2008 (AFP) - The United Nations evacuated non-essential staff from the flashpoint Sudanese town of Abyei on Wednesday after deadly fighting erupted between government troops and southern ex-rebels.

"We are very concerned about what is happening in Abyei in the last 24 hours. It is alarming because there is fighting in the centre of the town using heavy weapons," UN spokesman Khaled Mansour told AFP in Khartoum.

"We have evacuated our non-essential staff from Abyei to Kadugli which is standard practice in such situations. The rest of our staff are still there to perform their duties."

A helicopter flew out around 20 people, including about 10 UN personnel, and other aid workers from the small, impoverished town.

The United Nations called on both the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which fought a two-decade civil war with Khartoum until a 2005 peace agreement, to cease hostilities immediately.

The town lies at the centre of a district on the border between north and south Sudan and its oil wealth is bitterly contested by the two sides.

An impasse over the area is one of the key stumbling blocks that has delayed implementation of the peace deal.

The SPLM and army militia reportedly clashed about 10 kilometres (six miles) north of Abyei on Tuesday. On Wednesday, heavy but sporadic fighting erupted in Abyei itself with guns, grenades and rocket-launchers, punctuated by lulls.

Brigadier General Muntasir Sabier, the army commander in Abyei, told AFP by telephone that one of his soldiers was killed and another wounded.

He said civilians had fled their homes, that there had been shooting next to the hospital and that "half the market" had been burnt in the fighting.

"The town is completely deserted. It is a ghost town," he said. Although the town had been quiet since before dusk, he expected clashes to resume.

Representatives of both sides met international peacekeepers in Abyei and agreed on measures to defuse the tension, Mansour said.

Aid workers speaking to AFP by telephone had no information of any civilian casualties but said at least two soldiers had been killed.

Shops were closed and the streets deserted, they said.

No southern Sudanese officials were immediately available for comment.

The SPLM accuses President Omar al-Beshir's National Congress of failing to implement a special protocol to govern Abyei during a key transition period.

In 2011, Abyei will hold a referendum on whether to retain its special administrative status in the north or be incorporated into the south; and a second one on whether the south should break away as an independent state.

[GoNU](#)

Final census results to be announced in October

(Al-Ayyam) Chairman of the Census Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Dr. Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani announced the finalization of the first and second phase of census exercise with a total cost of \$ 2.2 adding that the final results would be ready in October.

He said some areas in Darfur had not been covered but the exercise was completed by 95% in the South and by 95% in the North.

He said 60,000 enumerators, 12000 observers and 1200 supervisors have taken part in the census.

NISS suspends Alwan newspaper, claims the paper discloses military information harmful to the country

(Al-Sahafa) The Director of Sudan National Intelligence and Security Services Lt. Gen. Salah Gosh has ordered the suspension of Alwan newspaper yesterday and attachment of all its properties. The order was immediately carried out yesterday by a security force and journalists were ordered to take their personal effects and leave the premises.

NISS filed complaint with the Prosecution against the Chief Editor Hussein Khojali.

According to sources, the newspaper was suspended because of disclosing sensitive military information, which is harmful to the country's security and gains. The sources did not elaborate about the nature of the information divulged by the newspaper.

Alwan newspaper of yesterday reported a rumour to the effect that SAF MiG aircraft reported missing during recent incidents in Omdurman and the rumour was not denied or confirmed by GoS or JEM so everybody was asking about the fate of the aircraft and the Russian pilot.

GoS and ICRC discuss status of captured JEM child soldiers

(Al-Ahdath) The newspaper has learnt that GoS in coordination with ICRC set up committee to look into the status of the JEM children captured during their attack on Omdurman.

Sources expected the children to be handed over to ICRC as POWs to be reunited with their families.

The ICRC welcomed GoS measure to keep the children in separate custody.

Thousands rally in Khartoum to denounce rebels

KHARTOUM, May 14 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Sudanese descended on the streets of Khartoum on Wednesday, shouting nationalist slogans to denounce a Darfur rebel attack on the capital which killed more than 200 people.

Sudan urged the world to list the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) as a terrorist group after Saturday's attack, the first time in decades of civil war that rebels from Sudan's peripheries had brought fighting to Khartoum's doorstep.

Dressed in military fatigues, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir led the crowd in chants against the rebels and their leader, Khalil Ibrahim. Even supporters of opposition parties joined the rally.

"(JEM) is implementing foreign agendas," Bashir said, brandishing his traditional Sudanese staff. "They have nothing to do with Darfur... they brought children and paid them money to come and occupy Khartoum." he said.

Sudan accuses neighbouring Chad of backing the attack, in which more than 300 heavily armed rebel vehicles sped across 400 miles (around 640 km) of desert to the western Khartoum suburb of Omdurman.

The assault was only halted at the bridge leading to central Khartoum, army headquarters and the presidential palace.

"Forget the men. We Sudanese women are ready and waiting for you," said Ihtimad Ali, 32, at the anti-rebel rally. "We are not scared."

Some in the crowd, however, questioned how the rebels had been able to reach the city largely unopposed. The rebels have vowed to renew attacks to try to bring down Bashir, in power since a 1989 coup.

Officials said the government had briefed foreign diplomats on the attack and called for JEM to be listed as a terrorist organization. That could mean its funds are frozen overseas and bring possible travel bans on its leaders.

"We think that it is beyond doubt that JEM is a terrorist organization and through diplomatic means we are going to ask them to hand over all the JEM leaders in other countries," said senior foreign ministry official Mutrif Siddig.

The U.N. Security Council strongly condemned the attack on Tuesday, but warned Khartoum not to retaliate against civilians.

Rights groups have expressed concern at reports of mass arrests, torture and two public executions of Darfuris and others following the assault. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

JEM said on Wednesday authorities detained JEM rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim's wife in Khartoum for a day.

Sudan doubled the price on Ibrahim's head to \$250,000 on Sunday and cut diplomatic relations with Chad, accusing it of backing the rebel attack.

Chad denies any involvement but analysts say it was likely revenge for an attack this year on Chad's capital N'Djamena by rebels. Chad's President Idriss Deby says were armed by Khartoum.

Darfur's five-year conflict has claimed an estimated 200,000 lives and driven more than 2.5 million from their homes. Rebels from Sudan's multiple regional wars all feel the central government has marginalized their areas.

Khartoum blames the Western media for exaggerating the conflict and puts the death toll at 10,000.

Thousands attend Sudan 'victory' rally after rebel attack

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Thousands of people on Wednesday demonstrated in Khartoum at a government-organized "victory" rally to denounce Darfur rebels as agents of Israel after a daring and deadly attack on the capital.

Waving flags and banners, crowds of men, women and schoolchildren converged outside army headquarters to hear a speech from President Omar al-Beshir whose government has been fighting rebels in Darfur for more than five years.

On Saturday, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels attacked Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, which lies just across the Nile, marking the first time that decades of regional conflict has been brought to the metropolis.

Witnesses varied widely on the size of the crowd. Some estimated around 7,000 people attended; others put the figure at 15,000 to less than 20,000.

"We're sending a message from here, from Khartoum, from the capital, from Omdurman to all the traitors and agents, the word of the Sudanese nation that victory has happened," shouted Beshir, dressed in military fatigues.

Sudan has offered a 250,000 dollar reward for information on the whereabouts or the capture of JEM commander Khalil Ibrahim.

"Khalil is an agent for Israel," Beshir said. "Khartoum cannot be governed by someone who sold himself to Judaism and the Crusaders.

"Because of him, women and children have been killed in Omdurman," said Beshir, repeatedly jabbing the air with his walking stick for emphasis.

The army said more than 222 people were killed in Omdurman and outside the city on three previous days as they attempted to halt the JEM advance. These included 34 civilians and nearly 100 members of the security forces.

The UN Security Council has condemned the attack, urged all sides to cease hostilities and warned against any retaliation against civilians.

Human rights groups in London and New York have cited fears that the government has targeted civilians in its crackdown after the attack.

The Aegis Trust said it had reports that hundreds of Darfuri civilians in Khartoum were beaten and detained and that some Darfuri residents, including women, were shot by the security services on the streets and in their homes.

It cited accounts of large numbers of Darfuri men being taken away in trucks and claims that police and national security forces have broken into, ransacked and destroyed Darfuri shops in Omdurman.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said mass arrests of perceived rebel supporters and other political opponents raised fears of mistreatment, citing unconfirmed reports of torture and at least two summary executions in public.

JEM told AFP on Wednesday that Ibrahim's wife had been arrested and released, but that their leader was safe and well.

"Dr Khalil's wife was arrested and they released her yesterday. We deplore these actions. If the government targets women and children, this sends the wrong message," said Tahir el-Faki, chairman of the JEM legislative council.

"This mission (rebel attack) has shown the weakness of the Sudan government. It shows the fragility of the security arrangements, it shows their incompetence and inability in defending themselves," Faki said.

He dismissed Wednesday's rally as government propaganda.

"Let them do rallies. We will do the work. That government is now paralyzed. It's totally traumatized. We are going to change that regime. It is only a matter of time," he told

Northern, southern Sudanese soldiers clash in Abyei, 4 killed

(ST) May 14, 2008 (ABYEI, Sudan) — South Sudanese former rebels fought northern government forces on Wednesday in the disputed oil-rich Abyei region, killing up to four people and sending hundreds fleeing, south Sudanese and U.N. officials said.

Fighting began near the town of Abyei on Tuesday night, and on Wednesday heavy exchanges of machine gun and mortar fire could be heard from a U.N. base just outside the town in the north-south border zone, witnesses said.

"Abyei is burning. Cars are burning in the streets," said Chris Johnson, a senior U.N. official in Abyei. "Clearly there will be a lot of people displaced."

Witnesses said hundreds of civilians fled the fighting between northern forces and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. Two helicopters evacuated some aid workers and non-essential U.N. staff from the area.

"Some of the SPLA soldiers and the Sudanese Armed Forces were fighting in the market," said Moussa Malei, deputy administrator of Abyei, adding that two people were killed on Tuesday.

Analysts say that Abyei, often called the "Kashmir" of Sudan's north-south conflict and coveted by both sides, could be the flash point to reignite civil war if its status is not resolved amicably and quickly.

Under a 2005 agreement that ended more than 20 years of north-south civil war, Abyei town is to be guarded by special joint units of northern and southern soldiers.

A U.N. official said fighting in Abyei had worsened on Wednesday after a Sudanese government soldier was killed. "That seemed to cause the escalation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A diplomatic source said the fighting had stemmed from an incident on Tuesday when SPLA forces detained a northern government soldier and some civilians, leading to an argument in which a northern soldier was shot.

The source said an SPLA soldier was killed on Wednesday: "There are gunshots in town, heavy gunfire and mortars."

Commanders from both sides were meeting U.N. staff to resolve their issues, Malei said.

Sudan's ruling National Congress Party accused former southern rebels in April of stirring up tensions in Abyei by unilaterally appointing a governor, saying it violated the north-south ceasefire.

South Sudan's government at the time accused the northern army of sending troops into Abyei, capital of the state.

The deadlock over Abyei shows the difficulties implementing the north-south deal that ended a war which killed 2 million. The peace deal granted semi-autonomous status to south Sudan.

Under the 2005 peace accord residents of Abyei will chose to join the north or south in 2011, when the entire south will vote on secession from the north.

[Chad urges world to make Sudan 'see reason' on Darfur](#)

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chad's foreign minister risked alienating his country even further from Sudan on Wednesday by urging the international community to arm-twist Khartoum into resolving the Darfur crisis.

Sudan severed diplomatic ties with Chad on Sunday, accusing Ndjamenana of backing a rebel assault on the Sudanese capital at the weekend. Chad closed its border the following day, ramping up tensions between the volatile neighbours.

Relations have been tense between the two countries since 2003 when war broke out in Darfur, sending hundreds of thousands of desperate refugees fleeing across the Chadian border.

It was the Darfur issue that Foreign Minister Moussa Faki, a former prime minister and key figure in Chad's new unity government, brought up on Wednesday.

He told AFP the time had come for the world to "make (Sudan) see reason," over its war-torn province and to accelerate the implementation of a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission.

"The hybrid force must be deployed," Faki said. "We have the impression that nothing has progressed, whereas the consequences have been felt way beyond the original theatre (of operations)."

Darfur has been devastated by civil war since 2003, but the 26,000-strong force is not yet fully manned because of a row over non-African contingents, with Sudan insisting that African options must be explored fully first.

A European Union peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic has as its primary objective the protection of refugees from Darfur.

Faki defended Chad against Sudan's accusations it had backed last Saturday's attack on Khartoum, saying his country had enough problems trying to control its own borders.

Chad has suffered "several attacks emanating from Sudan," he said, adding that Ndjamenana was hardly going to "set off on an adventure more than 3,000 kilometres (almost 2,000 miles) away to attack Omdurman."

Justice and Equality Movement rebels fought government forces on Saturday in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, which lies just across the Nile from the capital, prompting an indefinite curfew in the normally bustling metropolis.

More than 200 people were killed in that assault and other clashes outside the city over three days, as the rebel force headed from the remote west to Omdurman in at least 150 vehicles. The dead included 97 soldiers.

Sudan and Chad have traded accusations in recent years of supporting rebel groups seeking to destabilise their respective regimes.

They broke off relations for four months in 2006 after Chadian President Idriss Deby accused Sudan of arming the rebels who launched an earlier coup attempt that year.

His government on Monday froze the activities of a Sudanese bank operating in Chad, banned all financial transactions between the two countries, and said it was designating Libya to represent its interests in Sudan.

It also banned Sudanese music from being played.

[GoSS](#)

Sudan's Kiir faces two contenders for the SPLM chairmanship

(ST) May 14, 2008 (JUBA) — Two contenders declared their candidacy for the chairmanship of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement against Salva Kiir Mayadrit in the Second National Convention set to begin tomorrow.

SPLM Interim National Liberation Council meeting held yesterday at Home and Away Hotel in Juba agreed that there will only one position of SPLM Deputy chairman. It also adopted the amendments of the SPLM Interim national constitution and manifesto.

Riek Machar Teny, GoSS Vice-President and Nhial Deng Nhial, former minister of Regional cooperation who was in voluntary exile in London expressed their readiness to contest against President Salva Kiir Mayadrit for the SPLM leadership in the coming national convention that kicks off tomorrow at 09:00 am Sudan local time at Nyakuron Cultural center in Juba.

The move by the two contenders came as a surprise to many delegates and masses of southern Sudan who had expected that Salva Kiir to be the sole candidate.

However, the Interim National Liberation Council together with Interim Political Bureau are hammering out how best to reconcile or accommodate Riek Machar and Nhial Deng ambitions, otherwise, the general feeling that Salva Kiir will be reelected as chairman of the movement.

Sources from the secretariat also disclosed that southern Sudan parliament speaker, James Wani Igga and governor of Blue Nile Malik Agar Eyer both Deputy Chairmen of SPLM will have to battle it out through a democratic election process with Malik being backed by more than 500 northern out of 1520 nation wide delegates.

Meanwhile the current holder of SPLM Secretary General position, Pagan Amum Okeck is reported to have back down while Taban Deng Gai, governor of unity state who have lost in the SPLM state congress is contesting for secretary general together with Amon Mon Wantok.

Regarding the SPLM Deputy Secretary General for southern sector, Comrade Dr. Anne Itto so far has no challenger meanwhile for the northern sector; Yassir Arman is to face stiff challenge from Modul Rajab Ismail from western Sudan.

The Chairman of Convention Organizing Committee, James Wani Igga is on record that both the members of Interim National Liberation Council and Interim Political Bureau office holders would have to be dissolved themselves in order to pave way for fair and democratic election.

The SPLM national convention scheduled to have started from 10th to 16 May was postponed due to the Justice and Equality Movement attack against Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman on Saturday 10th May 2008. Being mindful of its role in CPA partnership, SPLM political bureau decided to postpone the convention in order to give more time for the Sudanese first vice president to address in threats of JEM in the capital of the country.

EQUATORIAL DELEGATES TO VOTE FOR VISIONARY LEADERS

In another development, the former minister of infrastructure of Central Equatoria state, Elikaya Aligo appeal to all greater Equatorial delegates to cast their vote for visionary leaders who will not sell or betray the cause of the people of southern Sudan. Regarding the alleged domination by central equatorial in the GoSS cabinet, he say some of them came from different parties than SPLM, therefore such disparity should whosoever not split the vote of greater equatorial during the convention.

Meanwhile MP Nartision Loluke, representative of Eastern Equatoria state in Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba, reiterated that all the SPLM governors, state secretaries and commissioners who lost their position during the state congresses should immediately be replaced because they have failed to promote the vision, mission and objective of the SPLM to the grassroots and hence it will be suicide to maintained the in those positions.

Darfur

Sudanese army attack SLA rebels in North Darfur

(ST) May 14, 2008 (EL-FASHER) — Sudanese troops today attacked one of the bases of the Sudan Liberation Army in North Darfur State, a rebel commander said.

Suleiman Marjan, SLA leading commander in northern Darfur told Sudan Tribune that a Sudanese army force consisted of 45 vehicles attacked the positions of his troops in Jebel Eissa area at 05:30 pm local time on Wednesday.

Marjan who is one of the partisans of Abdel-Wahid al-Nur said clashes lasted for around one hour and his fighters succeeded to move away from the area to avoid casualties among the civilians. He added that his troops are safe and no death among them.

The Sudanese troops engaged large-scale military operations in northern Darfur to hunt Justice and Equality leader Khalil Ibrahim. Marjan two days ago told Sudan Tribune that his troops were in state of alertness expecting a retaliatory attack after JEM aborted coup in Khartoum.

He further said that the assailant force arrived from El-Fasher where is the headquarters of the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur UNAMID.

The SLA led by Abdel-Wahid al-Nur did not take part in the attack against the Sudanese government in Khartoum.

Different reports indicated that SLA commanders declined JEM invitation to participate in the May 10 attack. However, this assault gives an indication of what would happen in the upcoming weeks in the troubled region in terms of violence escalations.

Marjan denounced the attack saying if Khartoum repeats attacks against the SLA positions, they be pushed to wage war and to resume military action.

"UNAMID people come and ask us to respect ceasefire in order to facilitate the peacekeeping operation etc... But it seems they are not able to impose this rule on the other party in the conflict." Marjan said.

The head of the UN peacekeeping department, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, told the Security Council today that another major cycle of violence and large-scale human displacement could surge in the troubled Darfur unless the parties retreat from their recent state of confrontation.

The violence had forced more than 150,000 people to flee their homes this year alone, he said.

U.N. officials estimate that as many as 300,000 people may have been killed in the five-year-old Darfur conflict. Khartoum says the figure is only about 10,000.