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(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations

Pronk: I told Khartoum of my intentions to correct the wrong information he had

(*AlSahafa* – 10th Nov.) SRSG Jan Pronk says that the article he wrote on his web log was not meant to disparage the SAF but as a criticism to the government itself and a warning that it should not continue violating the Darfur Peace Agreement.

According to *AlSahafa*, Pronk said in an article on the internet yesterday that he regretted that the government would regard his article as disparaging of the SAF and a violation of his mandate as SRSG. He said he had told key figures in the government and the SAF, before his expulsion, of his intention to correct some wrong information he had wrote.

He further wrote that he had in no way jeopardised the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Jan Egeland will talk to Kony on condition LRA releases its prisoners

(*AlSudani* – 11th Nov.) UN Humanitarian Coordinator Jan Egeland says he will hold talks with Lord's Resistance Army's Joseph Kony only if the LRA releases its prisoners and injured fighters.

A statement issued by the UN said that Egeland does not wish to discuss the ICC warrant on Kony and other Lord's Resistance Army kingpins but will focus instead on urging the Lord's Resistance Army to sign peace.

UN Human Rights chief warns of more Darfur attacks

(*AP* – 19th Nov. **Geneva**) Militia movements in Darfur raise the spectre that more atrocities against civilians, similar to an attack last month that killed 50 people, could be committed, the United Nations' top human rights official said Friday.

Louise Arbour, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, urged in a statement Sudan's government to control militia in western Darfur that the global body has blamed for the Oct. 29 attacks which killed mostly young boys and elderly men and caused thousands to flee their homes.

Arbour said it was encouraging that the region's governor has begun an investigation into these attacks.

The *AP* also reports that the US has blasted the UN Human Rights Council on Friday saying it has failed to address serious human rights violations in its first few months of operation - particularly in the Darfur region of Sudan.

In response, Sudan attacked the U.S. for its human rights record, saying it had no right to judge other countries or the effectiveness of the rights body.

Neither are members of the council.

Ethnic attacks in eastern Chad kill up to 220 - UN

(Reuters – 9th Nov. N'Djamena) Gunmen on horseback have killed up to 220 villagers in eastern Chad in the past week in growing ethnic violence near Sudan's blood-soaked Darfur region, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said on Thursday.

The raiders have struck at least seven villages since Nov. 4, UNHCR said in a statement, adding "...initial reports indicate that as many as 220 people have been killed in this week's string of attacks, with dozens wounded".

Humanitarian workers in Chad said the attacks were carried out by gun-toting Arab tribesmen against African villagers often armed with nothing more than bows, arrows and swords.

"Around 200 men on horseback attacked, accompanied by two Toyota pick-ups," a humanitarian worker in touch with colleagues in the area told Reuters about one of the attacks, which took place around Dar Sila in Chad's eastern province of Ouaddai.

"The attackers shouted 'You slaves! We have arrived and now we are attacking you'," added the humanitarian worker, who asked not to be named.

Chad's Territorial Administration Minister Ahmat Mahamat Bachir was visiting the Dar Sila area, around 40 km (25 miles) south of the eastern Chadian town of Goz-Beida, on Thursday to investigate the clashes.

"I don't have a precise number of dead. ... I know it's more than 100," he told Reuters by phone.

The attacks followed clashes last week between Arabs and non-Arabs in Salamat province, south of Ouaddai, in which over 100 people were killed, triggering calls for U.N. peacekeepers to deploy in Chad and neighbouring Central African Republic.

Aid workers in Chad said the attackers burnt the village of Djorlo to the ground. The raiders were drawn from three local Arab ethnic groups and targeted villages of the non-Arab Dadjo and Moro tribes, they said.

The pattern of violence reflects that of Darfur, where government-backed Janjaweed have attacked villagers and burnt homes in a war with rebels that has killed tens of thousands of people since 2003.

** AlSahafa publishes a translation of the article on SRSG Pronk's website: Persona Non-Grata: The Facts*

United Nations and the Transitional Debate

SG Annan says President Bashir has accepted a "mixed force under AU command"

(AlSahafa – 10th Nov.) UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says that Sudan's president has accepted that the AMIS be provided logistical and technical support and a "mixed" support force for Darfur.

Foreign ministry spokesperson, Ali el-Sadiq, says that the formula preferred by the Sudan is that the African Union be in command of the force. He said that the Sudan government does

not reject in principle that the African Union seek support from within or outside Africa and seek funding or logistics and technical support from outside.

Foreign minister holds talks with Secretary-General designate

Foreign minister Lam Akol held talks in Seoul yesterday with UN Secretary-General designate, Ban Ki Moon.

Speaking to the press in the wake of the meeting, the foreign minister said he does not understand why the UN should insist on a transition instead of support for the AMIS that is already on the ground.

ASG Annabi starts talks with officials in Khartoum

(*AlSahafa* – 11th Nov.) ASG for Peace Keeping Operations at the UN, Mr. Hedi Annabi, starts talks later today with Sudan government officials.

Annabi will be holding talks with President Bashir, Vice-President Kiir, foreign minister Akol and defence minister AbdelRaheem and the talks will focus on the UN support package to the AMIS.

AU will no longer tolerate attacks on its force in Darfur

(*AFP* – 10th Nov. **Khrt.**) A senior African Union official said AU peacekeepers deployed in Sudan's war-torn western Darfur region would no longer tolerate attacks on their mission.

"We shall no more tolerate any attacks against AMIS and humanitarian convoys," visiting AU Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit told journalists in Khartoum.

"We shall no more tolerate statements hostile to the AMIS in Sudan," he said without elaborating, adding that the AU would soon start publishing details of attacks on its forces in an "objective, neutral and transparent manner."

"We believe ... we should never give up and we believe that we have to give peace a chance," he said, appealing to recalcitrant rebels who have so far refused to sign up to a peace deal to do so.

"I appeal to all parties in Darfur to put an immediate end to violence and to those who didn't sign the accord to join the peace process," he said.

Djinnit said he hoped talks between the AU, UN Security Council and Khartoum in Addis Ababa on Monday would offer some hope for the violence-wracked region.

Security Council to AU meeting for talks on Sudan's Darfur

(*Reuters* – 10th Nov. **UN**) Eight U.N. Security Council envoys arrive in Ethiopia on Monday to hear Sudan's objections to a U.N. force in Darfur and explain why the world body should deploy peacekeepers in the turbulent region.

The trip, requested by the African Union, is designed to break the logjam between the United Nations and the Khartoum government, which refuses to allow U.N. troops into Darfur, where violence is escalating and 2.5 million people are homeless.

But Security Council diplomats said no decision would be made on the U.N. force or any alternative to it because council members themselves were not united with China, Russia and Qatar abstaining.

Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, this month's council president, said members would be speaking to Sudan about resolution 1706, adopted on Aug. 31, calling for a peacekeeping force of up to 22,500 troops, police and civilians.

The eight-member mission will be headed by British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, who also led a council delegation of China, Tanzania, Argentina, Qatar and Congo Republic, which holds the African Union presidency.

Hedi Annabi, an assistant secretary-general in the U.N. peacekeeping department, left on Thursday for talks with Sudanese officials, ahead of the council gathering, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The African Union has scheduled a series of meetings with Sudan on the future of an African Union force in Darfur, whose mandate expires on Dec. 31. The AU has asked the United Nations to take over its 7,000-strong operation.

Not under discussion, however, are informal U.N. talks on a African Union-U.N. hybrid force that the 15-nation Security Council has not yet considered.

One idea is to have the mission report politically to the United Nations as well as the African Union but have the force commander remain with the AU. Such an arrangement could prove difficult in determining who makes which decisions, even if the concept proves to be more amenable to Sudan.

UN can not force Sudan to accept Blue Helmets - UK official

(*SudanTribune.com* – 10th Nov. **London**) A high-level British diplomat acknowledged yesterday that if Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir continues to reject the deployment of UN forces in Darfur then the UN Security Council cannot force him to do so "or occupy Sudan".

He added that the "international community must, in this case, shoulder the responsibility and assist the AU to broaden the mission of its forces there", the London-based newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat reported on Thursday Nov 9.

The diplomat, who sought anonymity, stressed that "the Sudanese government was responsible for the deteriorating situation in Darfur, and the UN could not be held responsible for that".

Speaking at a meeting with a group of Arab and Iranian correspondents yesterday, the British diplomat said: "The AU has done a good job, but the challenge is greater than what its forces can control."

He noted that the AU has not been asked to cater for a military operation of this magnitude since its establishment, and added: In addition to the international forces' expertise in this matter, the UN Security Council is seeking to deploy UN forces that do not need a special budget but finance from the budget allocated for the UN peacekeeping operations.

He added that the Security Council was trying to persuade the Sudanese president to accept the international forces before 24 November, the date for the AU meeting to discuss a renewal of its forces' mandate in Sudan.

He noted British Prime Minister Tony Blair's willingness to attend a "meeting of leaders to discuss this issue".

Sudan VP secures Syrian support in Darfur standoff

(AFP – 10th Nov. **Damascus**) Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha won Syrian support for his regime's staunch opposition to the deployment of UN peacekeepers in the war-ravaged western region of Darfur.

"President (Bashar) al-Assad affirmed Syria's support for the national unity of Sudan and its efforts to resolve the crisis in Darfur," the official SANA news agency said.

Vice President Faruq al-Shara expressed his "rejection of efforts to internationalize the crisis."

GoNU

Sudan closes Eritrean opposition radio

(*SudanTribune.com* – 10th Nov. **Khrt.**) Sudanese Authorities have closed down an Eritrean opposition radio station, Al-Sharq, which was broadcasting from Khartoum.

A source with close links to the Eritrean opposition said the decision was taken due to closer ties between Khartoum and Asmara, the Khartoum based al-Sahafa reported Friday.

Al-Sahafa daily was unable to solicit any official response on the matter.

The source said the station's administrators had closed its doors and laid off its employees at the beginning of the month.

The Eritrean Sudanese rapprochement is also followed with worry by the Ethiopian government.

Sudan will provide Eritrea with oil and Transboundary trade will help Asmara to face food shortage.

Cardinal urges aid to Sudan's Church not to corrupt government

(CISA – 10th Nov. **Königstein, Germany**) Millions of dollars are being handed over to a corrupt government instead of being given to the Church to alleviate the suffering of the people of Sudan, Gabriel Cardinal Zubeir Wako said.

The Archbishop of Khartoum recently told the German-based Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need that badly needed funds were being wasted instead of being entrusted to responsible persons who could genuinely attend to the needs of the population.

"Who is really aware of whom the Church is helping in Sudan? Who sees the sufferings of the Church and what was taken away from her? We demand that the Church be respected and trusted because she truly serves the people," he added.

Cardinal Zubeir Wako said despite the peace agreement of last year hundreds of thousands of refugees were still not able to return to their homes in South Sudan.

"It is not the state, but the Church that takes care of those forgotten people who have to live under inhuman conditions, very close to the Sudanese capital. Therefore, the international community must support the Church that is a suffering Church and yet does all it can to alleviate the misery of the people. The Muslims as well are aware of this fact. We have suffered for decades from what the people in Darfur are going through right now."

Voicing concern over a lack of will to take action on part of the international community, the Cardinal said: "They will continue to negotiate or even remain silent and then declare that the problem is solved."

Head of the Coptic Church in Sudan calls for representation of Copts in the Presidency

(*AlRai AlAam* – 11th Nov.) The head of the Coptic Church in Sudan says Copts should be given their right to share in the Sudanese government both at the federal and regional levels.

He pointed out that there is not a single Copt in the whole federal and regional ministerial line-up in Sudan.

Unification committee to hold talks with National Security and Intelligence chief

(*AlHayat* – 11th Nov.) A spokesperson for the committee to unify national ranks says they will be winding up work with a meeting with President Bashir by the end of this month.

He said that the committee recently held talks with the head of National Security and Intelligence and will hold talks tomorrow with presidential advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail before travelling to Chad.

SECURITY: Police foil attempt at smuggling over 2,000 guns into the country

(*AlHayat* – 11th Nov.) The director of police in River Nile state says local police have foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country over 2,000 guns.

A fire-fight broke out when a police patrol stalked a suspect vehicle on the main highway in River Nile State and the police eventually managed to arrest the culprits and seize the weapons.

This is the second largest attempt at smuggling weapons through those areas and brings to 24,000 the total number of firearms seized by authorities while being smuggled into the country.

The police head rules out connection to any terrorist group in the smuggle attempt.

Citizens injured in clashes between two rival armed factions in Khartoum south

(*AlSahafa* – 10th Nov.) Chaos reigned in Kalakla yesterday as two rival southern Sudanese armed factions engaged in a gunfight in Kalakla, south of Khartoum.

Eyewitnesses say two citizens were injured – one of them with a bullet wound.

A joint police force moved to the site and cordoned off the area before managing to bring the situation under control.

Citizens then blocked the main road demanding that these armed factions leave the residential area.

It is not clear what the reasons for the clashes were.

ECONOMY: Sudan, Arab fund to invest \$200 mln. in agricultural development

(*Dow Jones* – 10th Nov. **Beirut**) Bank of Sudan and the Sudan-based state-owned Arab Organization for Agricultural Development signed a memorandum of understanding to invest \$200 million in agricultural development projects in Sudan, the London-based Asharq Al Awsat reported Friday.

The memorandum was signed at the Khartoum Economic Forum that was held on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to Sudan's Minister of Finance, al-Zubair Ahmed al-Hassan foreign investments in the country are expected to reach \$3 billion in 2006.

Sudan's economy has been growing at a fast pace and macroeconomic conditions have been stable. Real GDP grew at an estimated rate of 8% in 2005, owing mainly to a recovery in agriculture and robust activity in construction and services.

The Forum, according to the paper, witnessed a number of deals including an agreement between investors from the GCC and local bankers to form a joint Gulf-Sudan investment bank. Officials did not provide any details as to the size of the capital and principle activities of the bank.

Gulf investors also agreed to set up a joint Gulf-Sudan reinsurance company, and a MoU between the Central Bank of Qatar and Bank of Sudan was signed to provide credit facilities.

Oil conference urges Sudan to adopt transparent system

(*SudanTribune.com* – 10th Nov. **Juba**) An oil conference urged Sudan to adopt a transparent and accountable system in oil management and to enforce adopted mechanism of equitable oil distribution.

The Sudan Oil Conference, held in Juba on 1-2 November, recommended to Federal and South Sudan governments to implement law and policies related oil industry. The National Petroleum Commission (NPC) is seen as “the most important mechanism towards the realization of equitable oil distribution and revenue utilization”.

The conference urges to use Oil revenue in the realization of community-driven projects.

Regarding the oil companies, the conference requested the respect of local communities and their cultures. “Ought to operate in strict compliance with international environmental standards and best practices” the conference added.

The two-day conference was jointly organized by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS) and the New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI).

Following the conference, civil society participants convened and agreed on forming a Civil Society Taskforce to ensure a joint follow-up.

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- *Opposition forces reject bill on Political Parties and Organisations* (AlAyaam)
 - *Students took to the streets of Khartoum yesterday protesting recent Israeli atrocities in Beit Hanoun* (Most local dailies)

GoSS/Southern Sudan

S. Sudan has enough money to build up social services – W Bank

(SRS – 9th Nov. **Juba**) The World Bank said the Government of Southern Sudan has enough money from the oil revenue that can help in the provision of social services.

Speaking during Sudan oil conference on Thursday 2 November in Juba, the World Bank Chief Country Economist for Sudan and Ethiopia, Ms Jeni Klugman, said that if the southern Sudan quota from the oil revenue is used properly it will improve the living standards of the people.

“In 2006 the revenue per capita per person in southern Sudan is close to 200 dollars. And the resources available in southern Sudan to those available to the states in the North is Darfur where revenue per capita spending per capita is the order of 25 dollars you know in southern Sudan you have some thing like 200 dollars;” said Klugman.

The total oil revenue of southern Sudan amounted 865 millions US dollars in September 2006. September’s allocation for the southern Sudanese government totaled 2.148 billions US dollars, comprising the above oil revenue, 688 millions US dollars direct cash payment, and 595 millions US dollars withdrawals from the national oil revenue stabilisation account.

She also said the post-conflict situation in southern Sudan is better than that of East Timor and Afghanistan where majority of the people are poor.

Klugman said revenue from oil will be used well if government authorities practice good governance. She advised both the Governments of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to establish transparent policies and encourage private investments in the country.

On the net: [Click here to see GOSS share from oil revenues](#)

Darfur

Minnawi’s Darfur tour

(AlRai AlAam – 11th Nov.) Addressing yesterday in el-Fasher representatives of IDP camps, senior presidential aide Mini Minnawi warned against polarization of the IDP camps along tribal lines.

He pointed out that some of the problems faced in these IDP camps is more of a tribal nature and promised to find ways to resolve these problems.

Minnawi also described his recent meeting with African Union Commissioner Saeed Djinnit as positive and said the meeting covered implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and support for the African Union.

43,000 IDPs refuse to return to their villages

(*AlSudani* – 11th Nov.) 43,000 IDPs from the Salaam (Abuja) IDP camp near el-Fasher say they will not return to the villages they left despite 50% cuts in the food rations provided by the WFP.

The IDPs mainly cite security concerns as reasons for their unwillingness to return.

African ambassadors accredited to Geneva urge African cooperation on the Darfur crisis

(*AlRai AlAam* – 11th Nov.) African ambassadors accredited to Geneva are currently on a tour to Darfur where they held talks with Governor Atta-el-Mannan of W. Darfur and the chief justice in Darfur and toured the IDP camps and sent a plea to African states to cooperate to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Governor Atta-el-Mannan said that the delegation's tour comes at a right time and expressed hopes it will have the desired effects on regional and international public opinion on the issue.

He blasted the western media for the reports they put out on Darfur and pointed out that these reports are far from depicting the realities on the ground.

The chief justice in the Darfur's briefed the delegation on the status of crimes in the area and of what the judiciary is doing on these.

Sudan's obstruction forces Norwegian agency to end Darfur operation

(*Reuters* – 10th Nov. **Khrt.**) Sudanese government obstruction has forced the Norwegian Refugee Council to close its Darfur operation providing humanitarian relief to 300,000 war victims, the aid agency said on Friday.

Sudan is suspicious of the dozens of foreign aid agencies working in Darfur and has targeted more vocal organisations, especially those that have revealed figures for rape, a crime Khartoum denies is widespread in the violent region.

"Closing down is the very last option," said NRC Secretary-General Tomas C. Archer.

"However, the frequent disruption of our humanitarian work, such as suspension for a sum total of 210 days, is forcing us to take this very difficult decision," he added.

"We cannot work when the authorities suspend us continuously and do not respond to our repeated requests for dialogue," Archer said in a statement.

Sudanese officials were not immediately available to comment.

NRC had constant troubles with the authorities since it began operations in 2004 and its activities were suspended five times. NRC worked in Darfur's vast and most volatile camp, Kalma in South Darfur.

Kalma residents burnt and looted the offices of government authorities who have not been able to re-establish control for almost two years. They say rebels have infiltrated the camp and accused NRC, the agency in charge of Kalma, of aiding them.

Central African Republic rebels capture of second town

(*SudanTribune.com* – 10th Nov. **Bangui**) A spokesman for rebels in Central African Republic claimed his fighters attacked and captured a northern town Friday, the second to fall to rebels in less than two weeks.

Rebel spokesman Abakar Saboune said rebels seized Ouadda-Djalle before dawn. Government and military officials could not be reached for comment and there was no independent confirmation of the claim.

Ouadda-Djalle is about 175 kilometers (110 miles) south of Birao, which rebels captured Oct. 29 near the country's borders with Chad and Sudan.

"We captured this town (Ouadda-Djalle) in the early hours of the morning this Friday after fierce battle with the regular army," Saboune said by telephone. He gave no casualty figures.

The rebels say they are fighting to protest government corruption and mismanagement by the administration of President Francois Bozize, who was swept to power in 2003 when his own rebels overran the capital and ousted President Ange-Felix Patasse.

The rebels have called on Bozize's government to hold a national conference to discuss the country's fate but say the government has not responded.

Bozize accuses Sudan of backing the rebels, and government officials say the rebels crossed the border from Sudan's troubled Darfur region to launch their first attack in October. Sudan has denied the charges.

Other Developments

Eleven nations feed Somali war build-up - experts

(*Reuters* – 10th Nov. **Nairobi**) Militant groups and 11 countries are funnelling the military aid needed for a full-scale war into Somalia, widening the threat of conflict into the Horn of Africa and beyond, sources said a United Nations report will say.

Several security experts familiar with the content of an arms embargo violations report to the U.N. Security Council, due out next week, said the build-up of military supplies and personnel was aggressive even by Somali standards.

Reuters has not seen the report, which covers the period from June when Islamists took control of Mogadishu from U.S.-backed warlords, but interviewed several experts who have seen the final version.

They say the report says Somalia's powerful Islamist movement has in its ranks about 1,000 battle-hardened foreign jihadists and volunteer trainers expert in assassination, suicide bombing and sniping from militant groups including Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Syria, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia have all provided weapons or supplies — including food, uniforms, fuel and doctors — to the Islamists.

"They are preparing for a fight. There exists an agreement between the countries that says 'This country provides this, this country provides that,'" one expert told Reuters.

Besides the militants who have operated in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and even Indonesia, there are thousands of conventional soldiers inside Somalia from Horn of Africa rivals Ethiopia and Eritrea, the experts said, quoting the report.

The experts said Ethiopia has between 5,000 and 10,000 troops with armoured vehicles in Somalia, while Eritrea has about 2,500 including specialists in anti-aircraft combat.

Yemen and Uganda have given weapons and other support — including about 100 soldiers in Uganda's case — to President Abdullahi Yusuf's government, the report says.

Ethiopia has said it has several hundred military trainers there. Eritrea has denied any involvement in Somalia. Uganda has made no comment, but some officials admit they have sent police trainers there.

U.N. officials had no comment. The 1992 embargo on Somalia, already awash in guns, is the most widely flouted in the world.

What emerges from the report, the experts say, is a potential war of coalitions split along Muslim-Christian lines — not just between the shaky government and the Islamists who have dashed its hopes to impose central rule.

"This has the potential to turn Somalia into Iraq," said one of the officials, who declined to be named.

Many have long feared Ethiopia and Eritrea, bitter over a 1998-2000 war for their still-disputed border, will use neighbouring Somalia as a proxy battleground. The report provides further evidence that may be the case, the experts say.

It says the Islamists are allied with Ethiopian insurgents from the Ogaden National Liberation Front — from the ethnically Somali Ogaden region — and the Oromo Liberation Front.

The experts say the report shows the potential for an asymmetrical Iraq-style conflict involving bombings and assassinations that could spread into east and central Africa.

"They're not going to stop with conventional weapons with Ethiopia. They're going to hit soft targets," the official said.

That could mean attacks in Kenya and possibly stirring up insurgent groups across the region stretching down to eastern Congo.

Ethiopia, the United States and the United Nations have long said Islamist leaders have links to al Qaeda, which they deny.

The exchange of tactics, fighters and experience with militant groups is far more structured than previously seen, the expert said.

"They have a plan, they have the will and they have the means. Everything they are, the West is not."

And though conventional wisdom has long said Ethiopian air power would give the government and its military patron the decisive edge, Eritrea has found a way to counter it, they said.

"The Eritreans are bringing in aircraft in pieces, flying them into Mogadishu," the expert said, but could not quantify how many had arrived.

Though that information is not in the report, the experts said Ethiopia and Uganda had given the interim government anti-aircraft weapons, including shoulder-fired SA-7 heat-seeking missiles and heavy machine guns.

"It tells me if they bring in anti-aircraft weapons that they know their enemy has aircraft," the other expert said.