



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report 4 October 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Rights watchdog urges Sudan to deliver militia leader to ICC

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. NEW YORK) Sudan should immediately surrender suspect Ali Kosheib to the International Criminal Court, Human Rights Watch said today. Sudan announced yesterday that it had released Kosheib from prison for lack of evidence.

On April 27, 2007, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for “Janjaweed” leader Ali Kosheib for 51 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including counts for rape, murder and persecution. At the time the warrants were issued, Kosheib was already in prison in Sudan on unrelated charges.

“Freeing one ICC suspect two weeks after awarding another suspect a plum government post demonstrates Khartoum’s blatant disregard for the Security Council resolution requiring cooperation with the court,” said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch’s International Justice Program. “It is now all the more imperative that Council members raise this with Sudanese officials.”

For further information on the ICC charges against Ali Kosheib and the human rights situation in Darfur, please visit:

· “Italy: Urge Sudan to Arrest War Crime Suspects” (September 2007 news release), at: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/09/14/sudan16870.htm>

UN reports more hijacks of vehicles in Sudan’s Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. KHARTOUM) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported on Wednesday that more vehicles of the UN agencies and international non-

governmental organizations (INGO) had been hijacked in the war-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Three armed men on Monday hijacked at gunpoint a UN vehicle in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State, according to the report.

The Sudanese police, who were notified of the incident, pursued the hijackers but their attempt to stop the vehicle was unsuccessful and efforts to recover the vehicle are still ongoing. A joint investigation is currently being conducted by the UN and AU into the attack, which has been strongly condemned by the international community.

UN envoy wants immediate ceasefire in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. STOCKHOLM) Groups in Sudan's Darfur should cease hostilities now and not wait for peace talks at the end of the month after a weekend attack killed 10 peacekeepers, a United Nations negotiator said on Wednesday.

UN Sudan envoy Jan Eliasson said the attack, blamed on splinter groups from Darfur's already divided rebel factions, should not be allowed to disrupt talks scheduled to begin in Libya on Oct. 27. Most parties have agreed to cease hostilities at the same time, but fighting continues.

"We cannot say it was a deliberate attempt to disrupt the talks but it was certainly a deliberate step to provoke negative developments," the former Swedish foreign minister told Reuters in a telephone interview hours before flying to Sudan.

"But we have to move forward with the talks and we will move forward with the talks. The world expects the parties to cease hostilities on October 27 and in fact after this terrible attack they should cease hostilities now."

Eliasson said it was still not entirely clear who was behind the assault on the African Union peacekeepers, who are due to be reinforced when their mission is absorbed into a much larger 26,000 member hybrid AU-UN force.

"There are some sources claiming this is renegade or small factions of a group not acting in the spirit of the leadership," he said. "We have noted that important leaders of the different rebel movements have condemned this terrible act and by that committed themselves to the talks and the process of finding a political solution."

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan security blocks US Carter meeting with Darfur refugees

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. KEBKABIYA, Sudan) Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter confronted Sudanese security services on a visit to Darfur Wednesday, shouting "You don't have the power to stop me!" at some who blocked him from meeting refugees of the conflict.

Carter, 83, wanted to visit a refugee camp in South Darfur but the UN mission in Sudan deemed that too dangerous. Instead, he agreed to fly to the World Food Program compound in the North Darfur town of Kabkabiya, where he was supposed to meet with refugees, many of whom were chased from their homes by militias and government forces.

But none of the refugees showed up and Carter decided to walk into the town, a volatile stronghold of the pro-government janjaweed militia, to meet refugees too frightened to attend the meeting at the compound. He was able to make it to a school where he met with one tribal representative and was preparing to go further into town when Sudanese security officers stopped him.

"You can't go. It's not on the program!" the local security chief, who only gave his first name as Omar, yelled at Carter, who is in Darfur as part of a delegation of respected international figures known as "The Elders." "We're going to anyway!" an angry Carter retorted as a crowd began to gather. "You don't have the power to stop me."

However, UN officials told Carter's entourage the Sudanese state police could bar his way. Carter's travelling companions, billionaire businessman Richard Branson and Graca Machel, the wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela, tried to ease his frustration and his Secret Service detail urged him to get into a car and leave.

"I'll tell President Bashir about this," Carter said, referring to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

Omar, the security chief, said Carter had already breached security once by walking to the school and would not be allowed to breach security again. "We are in the security field. We're not that flexible," he said after the confrontation ended.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Carter later played down the encounter, saying the security chief was only doing his job.

"But it's true that I'm not accustomed to people telling me I can't walk down the street and meet people," he told the AP after returning to a United Nations compound in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state. Branson said some refugees had slipped notes in his pockets.

"We (are) still suffering from the war as our girls are being raped on a daily basis," read one of the notes, translated from Arabic, that Branson handed to the AP.

The note said that on Sept. 26, a group of girls had been raped and a refugee had been shot two days ago. Branson said it had been handed over by an ethnic African man.

For the most part, the refugees in Kabkabiya appeared too frightened to speak to the visiting delegation. Most of the community leaders the mission met during its two-day visit to Darfur appeared to be government-vetted, and several ethnic African delegates told AP they had been intimidated by authorities into turning down invitations from "the Elders."

"This illustrates the challenges that communities and humanitarian workers face in Darfur," said Orla Clinton, spokeswoman for the UN Mission in Sudan, who witnessed the incident.

Carter accused the international community with neglect for taking too long to mobilize over Darfur. "Because of Iraq, this crisis had been simmering at a lower level," he told the AP.

He also pledged to hold world powers to their pledge of ending the "crime against humanity."

Carter said the main goal of the three-day visit to Sudan was to seek guarantees for free and fair elections throughout the country in 2009.

Attorney: Judicial confessions by 23 suspects accused of sabotage attempt

(*AlSudani*) Informed sources said 23 out of the 26 persons accused of plotting to stage a coup registered their confession. Sources added that investigation delayed because of correspondents to legally obtain information on bank accounts and phone calls of the plotters. The plotters are charged of attempting to topple the government

Alor and Arman visit detained opposition leader Mubarak AlFadil

(*Rai AlShaab*) A delegation from the SPLM comprising Deng Alor, Kuang Majank and Yassir Arman have paid a visit to the detained opposition Umma Party leader Mubarak Al Fadil in Kober Prison . AlFadil told the delegation that his arrest is illegal. The SPLM delegation condemned AlFadil arrest.

Council of Ministers: No verbal confrontations between Ministers at Cabinet meeting

(*AlSudani*) The Director of the Department of Information and Political Affairs of the Council of Ministers, Hatim Hassan Bakheet, said the Interior minister presented a "briefing" not a report at the meeting of the council of ministers last Sunday. The briefing usually provides material to minister for their information and is not subject to deliberations. The briefing was about the arms collection campaign in Khartoum. Bakheet said that meeting did not, contrary to a report published by AlSudani, witness any verbal confrontation between the ministers.

South Kordofan prepares for reconciliation conference between Miseriya and Nuba

(*Alsahafa*) The government of South Kordofan began preparations for holding a reconciliation conference between the Miseriya and Nuba tribes. Clashes between the two parties this week have resulted in the killing of 19 people.

Constitutional Review Commission gives political forces six days to submits proposals on elections law

(*AlAyaam*) Political parties were given 6 days to present in writing their proposals regarding the draft bill of the new election law. Al Ayaam was informed from trustworthy sources that the SPLM kept Ghazi Suliman away from meetings of the National Constitutional Review Commission. According to reports he might be replaced by Yasir Arman.

Sudan's FM slams Darfur campaigns

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. UNITED NATIONS) Sudan's foreign minister on Wednesday urged all rebel groups to join the upcoming peace talks on Darfur and called Western campaigns to aid Darfur "vicious," hostile and unfair.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Foreign Minister Lam Akol said Khartoum was complying with all international agreements and would abide by its unilateral cease-fire pledge when peace talks start in Tripoli, Libya, on Oct. 27.

But he said Sudan had been the target of "hostile, ill-intentional campaigns" from abroad aimed at exploiting the crisis in Darfur to serve their "well-known agendas and plans," an obvious reference to Western advocacy groups criticizing Sudanese army actions in Darfur.

"This vicious campaign targeted the policies of the country and its stance, and has strived to exaggerate and distort facts and to violate the country's capabilities and the heritage and values of its people," Akol said.

The minister urged Darfur's myriad rebel groups to stop warfare and join the "peace march without delay." He called on the international community to take "firm measures" against those who refuse to participate or obstruct the talks.

US opposes Sudan divestment bill

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. WASHINGTON) A bill that would allow U.S. states to divest from companies doing business in Sudan could hurt international efforts to end the violence in war-torn Darfur, Bush administration officials told a Senate panel Wednesday.

The pending Senate bill aims to put economic pressure on Sudan to stop the violence in its western Darfur region, where an estimated 200,000 people have been killed since rebels took up arms against the government in 2003.

Jendayi Frazer, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said the Bush administration was confident its sanctions were working and warned against legislative measures that might undo progress.

"We are concerned that some initiatives to increase economic pressure on Sudan will damage our relationship with our key partners rather than increase pressure in Khartoum," Frazer told the Senate Banking Committee hearing.

But several senators voiced support for the bill and said they would work to get it passed.

Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, a bill co-sponsor and Republican presidential candidate, said: "We have a responsibility to ensure that genocide does not continue on our watch or on our dime."

In July, the House overwhelmingly passed a bill that would protect investment managers who pull money out of key sectors in Sudan from lawsuits from disgruntled investors. It also calls on the U.S. government to list companies whose business in Sudan supports "genocidal practices."

The companion Senate bill would allow state or local governments to adopt measures to prohibit any investment of state assets in the Sudanese government or in any company with a qualifying business relationship with Sudan.

That bill has yet to move out of the Senate Banking Committee, a crucial step in the legislative process.

Sudan's envoy to UN terms resolution on attack on AU troops "positive"

(Sudanese TV on 3 October) [Presenter]The decision taken by the UN Security Council on the attack of the AU troops base came late and again did not clearly and directly condemn the movements that carried out the attack.

[Reporter] It came a bit late, but was finally issued. The UN Security Council statement that condemned what it termed dangerous attack on the AU Peacekeeping troops in Darfur in Haskanita in South eastern Darfur in which ten AU soldiers were killed and ten others injured.

The statement of UNSC called for more efforts to be made to identify those who carried out the attack and punish them.

[Foreign Ministry Spokesman] It is clear that the international community came out to condemn the Haskanita heinous attack. We in Sudan, as known to the viewers, we clearly condemned the issue from the first day, and we asked for identification and arrest of those who carried out the operation and taken to book.

[Reporter] Despite the clear evidences showing that some factions were behind the attacks, the [UNSC] statement did not mention it. An issue that led the Russian ambassador to UN to describe it as not strong as expected.

He told reporters that it was heard for some UNSC members to accuse a rebel movements.

Observers see the UNSC statement a change in the council dealing with the rebel movements, that was preceded by similar development in US, which is attributed by some to active diplomatic moves of Sudan government.

[Justice minister] this crisis could have not happened if the international community would have fulfilled its obligations in two fields.

The first one was to provide logistical, financial and technical support to AU troops to enable it to defend itself if attacked, this forces do not need to operate under section seven [of UN Charter] but only to defend themselves, a principal law in all laws.

[Reporter] Carrying out such an attack three weeks before the Tripoli talks, puts an eyebrows after expectations that the talks will be final. But Haskanita is expected to be the last nail on the so called Darfur issue's coffin.

We contacted via phone the Sudan representative to UN on this issue. We asked him about this view on the UN statement that did not clearly mention those who carried out the attack and about the countries that blocked the issue.

[Sudan representative to UN] Yes, as known, the UNSC hold meeting as requested by Ghana, which chairs the council this month. to discuss the attack on Haskanita. The council discussed the issue for two days and finally condemned the attack. it also sent condolence message to the countries of the victims. The council also reiterated its support for AU troops in Darfur and expressed regrets that the attack was carried out days before the Tripoli talks.

We describe the statement as positive compared to the situation at the UNSC. The condemnation was clear and the rebels attack on Haskanita was mentioned. The condemnation of those who carried out the attack was also clear. Some countries like USA and UK asked for more time to [word indistinct] but came the next day to join the other countries.

Opposition Umma Prepares for elections

The National Umma Party has announced its readiness to compete in the up coming elections, if preparatory steps are taken with honesty, seriousness and transparency. The party's Secretary-General Dr. Abdulnabi Ali Ahmed briefed a press conference he held on Wednesday on the procedures and conditions his party demanded for running fair and honest elections.

He disclosed the names of the secretary –general assistants, the secretaries of the secretariat and the chairpersons of the polit-bureau committees.

GoSS

SPLM politburo emergency meeting begins today in Juba

(Sudan Vision, AlSudani) The SPLM political Bureau is expected to hold meeting today in Juba. A statement issued by the SPLM / North Sector said the meeting will deal with crucial topics and issue resolutions anticipated to be the most important since the start of the National Unity Government.

It is to be noted that such meetings usually discuss recent political developments in the country, issues related to the progress of Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation and development in Darfur region so that the political office comes out with an overall assessment of these items.

70 M-USD to reconstruct 90 km network roads of Lakes

(Khartoum Monitor) Speaking to our correspondent in Lake States on Friday, the Minister for Physical Infrastructure, Road and Bridges H.E Jok Ayom Majak said that the process of land and surveying was started last year with consultative meetings in October with the Commissioners offices, Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) for sharing experiences, Stakeholders for sensitization and their participation in the survey exercises.

Jok said that on 28th February 2007, the Ministry signed a contract with Asheng Engineering Company to survey, demarcate and map the seven provinces including the capital Rumbek, train our Ministry personnel and county personnel on the job for two and half –three months period.

We have approximately 90km`s of road network in Rumbek town. We have agreed with Inter-Africa Construction Company to work on the roads in Rumbek which is being estimated to cost 70m USD. Jok said. Meanwhile, the immediate move is to do something on the areas such as; the road to the hospital, airport, the drainage and ponds in the market area, roads leading to the Governors resident and so on. Jok Ayom pointed out that all premises would be met by the end of this year.

Kiir appoints his (SPLM) deputies

(Khartoum Monitor) The First vice President and president of the Government of Southern Sudan Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit, in his capacity as the chairman of the Sudan People`s Libration Movement issued a decree appointing Dr. Riek Machar as First Sudan People`s Libration Movement Deputy, James Wani Second Deputy and Malik Aggar Third Deputy.

SPLM Salva Kiir to tour North Sudan

(SudanTribune.com – 3 Oct. KHARTOUM) Sudan`s First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chairman of Sudan People`s Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir will visit the states of northern Sudan after Eid Al-Fitr.

SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, said the visit of Salva Kiir comes in the context of boosting joint work inside the Government of National Unity and would be a good opportunity to see the conditions of the people and government in the states of north Sudan. In a statement to the official SUNA, Arman pointed out that details of the visit were discussed when he was received by Salva Kiir, last month in Juba.

Sudan's Kiir discusses implementation of peace accord with US envoy

(Sudanese TV – 3 Oct.) [Presenter] First Vice-President and head of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), General Salva Kiir Mayardit, was briefed on the outcome of the tour undertaken by US envoy Andrew Natsios in a number of regions in southern States.

General Salva Kiir met the envoy at the GoSS Secretariat in Juba. Natsios said he had acquainted himself with implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA] through his meetings with officials in these States. For his part, General Salva Kiir emphasized the importance the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] attaches to implementation of all the clauses in the CPA.

LRA peace team arrives today

(*The New Vision* – 3 Oct. Uganda) LRA delegates will today make an unprecedented visit to the country, the first since the peace talks began in Juba, South Sudan, in July 2006.

The rebels' spokesman, Godfrey Ayoo, said the chairman of the LRA delegation, Martin Ojul, will lead the six-man team to Kampala and the North.

"We will be coming to Uganda. I cannot tell you which route we will be using but we will be in Uganda tomorrow. The people of Uganda deserve to meet us," Ayoo told *The New Vision* by telephone from Nairobi yesterday.

He added that Dr. Riek Machar, the chief mediator and Vice-President of South Sudan, might join them. "Some members of the mediation team will also be there so that we feel free and secure because they are the guarantors."

South Sudan's information minister, Samson Kwajje, will reportedly be part of the visiting team.

According to Ayoo, the visit is intended to mobilise and sensitise people the LRA had scheduled to invite for its consultative conference at Rikwangba, on the Congo-South Sudan border.

For most delegates, who have been living in the Diaspora since the take-over by President Yoweri Museveni, it might be the first visit to Uganda in over two decades.

The president of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, on Tuesday confirmed the visit of the LRA team to Kampala.

"On Thursday the LRA delegation will travel to Kampala," he told a group of visiting statesmen in Juba, led by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former US President Jimmy Carter. Kiir said he was optimistic that a Comprehensive Peace Agreement would be signed "by the end of the year."

Umma Party prepares for elections

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Umma Party resolved to form a high committee from its leaders to gear up for the upcoming elections. This followed the party's decision to run in the elections if preparations for it are fair and transparent. The party identified these fair preparations as ensuring of freedom for parties, conducting the census, settlement of border disputes, resettlement of displaced persons, drafting of elections committee.

This was revealed in a press conference yesterday in which the Secretary general of the Party, Dr. Abdalnabi Ali Ahmed announced the members of the new executive office and the new secretaries .

Darfur

12 AU military personnel killed, EU condemns

(*AlSudani*) The African Union presidency issued a statement condemning the killing of the AU military personnel in Darfur. Recent reports indicate that the number of those who have been killed in Haskanita attack has reached 12. According top Sudan ambassador to the EU, the EU has called on the parties to observe cessation of hostilities and support the efforts of the UN and AU to end the conflict in Darfur.

SLM rejects AU mediation in Darfur talks

(*AlSudani*) SLM (Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim) accused the African Union of encouraging divisions within Darfur armed groups. He said the African Union is not neutral as far as the conflict in Darfur is concerned. Ibrahim argued that his movement rejects any mediation under the leadership of Salim Ahmed Salim who was behind the Abuja Agreement.

A statement issued by SLM and signed by Esam El Din El Hag accused African Mission in Sudan officials of providing military intelligence information to the government.

AU Spokesperson: 28 killed in attack in Haskanita

(*Akhbar Alyaum*)

Al Mirghani asks DPA non-signatories to agree on a common vision for solving Darfur problem

(*Rai AlShaab*) The DUP and NDA leader Mohamed Osman El Mirghani, urged the DPA non-signatories to agree on a common vision in order to help resolving Darfur problem and stopping foreign intervention based on the issue of Darfur. He emphasized the importance of participation of all rebel groups in Tripoli peace talks

AU force commander admits Africa failed to support his troops in Darfur

(*Alwan*) The AU Force Commander in Darfur admitted that the rebels and militias in Darfur are stronger than the AU force in terms of numbers of troops and arms. He explained that the African countries have no capacity to provide the AU forces with the required weapons.

Interior Ministry train police (on human rights, international law, community policing, peace building, peaceful coexistence) to deal with the hybrid

(*AlSudani*) Major General police Muawia Mohamed Ahmed, director of training, said the Ministry of Interior has began training of police in human rights, international

law, community police, peace building and peaceful co-existence. He said the objective of this training programme is to enable the Sudanese police to deal with hybrid troops which will be deployed in Darfur.

China backs Sudan's \$300m Darfur payment

Financial Times FT.com, A \$200m loan from China will form the bulk of a compensation payment the government of Sudan has pledged to make to the beleaguered Darfur region, according to former US president Jimmy Carter, who is visiting the country.

Mr Carter said on Wednesday that Omar al-Bashir, Sudan's president, made the pledge during talks with him and other members of a visiting group of elder statesmen.

"He promised us there would be \$300m (€212m, £147m) in all coming to the Darfur region in compensation: \$100m coming from the government and \$200m to be a loan from the Chinese," Mr Carter was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Sudan's foreign ministry was not able to confirm the pledge or provide any further details but an official announcement was expected on Wednesday night. China's embassy in Khartoum was closed for a Chinese national holiday.

If the loan from China is provided specifically for compensation, it would mark a significant departure for a country whose financial support to African countries is normally provided for trade and infrastructure projects.

China, which imports large volumes of oil from Sudan, has previously received sharp criticism for obstructing attempts by the United Nations Security Council to try to quell the violence in Darfur. But following calls by some US activists for a boycott of next year's Beijing Olympics over Darfur, China was credited with persuading the Khartoum government to accept a beefed-up UN/African Union peacekeeping force in the region.

The issue of compensation is likely to form a central part of peace talks between the government and several of Darfur's fractious rebel groups, scheduled to start on October 27 in Libya.

As part of an unsuccessful peace agreement signed last year the government agreed to provide \$30m of compensation. The funds have not yet been disbursed due to wrangling over who it will be distributed to: there are competing claims from different ethnic groups and areas of Darfur, as well as from the representatives of specific villages that have been destroyed and from individuals.

Nigerian Parliament summons Sudan ambassador on Haskanita

(AlSahafa) The Nigerian Parliament summoned to Sudanese ambassador to Nigeria to provide clarifications on the circumstances in which the Ugandan soldiers were killed in Haskanita in Darfur. Meanwhile the Nigerian president has sent his army

commander to Khartoum to assess the situation and assist in transporting the bodies of the Nigerian soldiers World Health Organization z have been killed in Darfur.

European troops headed to Darfur neighbors

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. PARIS) About 3,000 European security forces could start deploying to Chad and Central African Republic next month to protect hundreds of thousands of refugees and other civilians caught up in the spillover from the Darfur conflict, French officials said.

The European forces are expected to start deploying at the beginning of November, becoming at least partially operational by the middle of the month, a French official said. The official said the operation would coincide with the start of the long-awaited deployment, expected this month, of a 26,000-member joint African Union-UN force in Darfur itself.

The joint AU-UN force was to absorb the 7,000-member AU force, which has long been seen as too small and weak to be effective.

Eastern and southern Chad also host some 450,000 internally displaced people and refugees from Darfur and Central African Republic, while 2,600 Darfurians have fled to northern Central African Republic, already home to more than 200,000 internally displaced people.

French efforts to ensure the troops come from all over Europe, with a non-French commander, are aimed at dispelling notions that the operation is really aimed at shoring up France's interests in Africa, where it still wields considerable influence as a former colonial power.

Sweden, Poland and Belgium are offering between 100 to 200 troops each, one of the French officials said. Other contributing nations were not identified but could also supply troops, air power or other support.

Mediators at Darfur talks need patience - elder statesmen

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. KHARTOUM) Mediators at Darfur peace talks will need patience and negotiators need to be more representative of the people of Sudan's remote west, a group of elder statesmen said on Wednesday after visiting the region.

But peace in Darfur will be meaningless unless democratic elections, part of a separate north-south peace deal, go ahead as planned by 2009, they said.

"We hope that the participants will be patient, because this complex issue cannot be solved in a few days or in a few weeks," former U.S President Jimmy Carter told reporters.

He said many of the rebel groups, divided and numerous, did not represent the people of Darfur, who wanted peace, and said those members of civil society needed a voice at talks due to start on October 27 in Libya. "Some of these rebel groups have no constituency except their own bandit members but they are the ones so far who are

being qualified to participate," he said at the end of a three-day trip to Khartoum, south Sudan and Darfur.

Eight die in Darfur shoot-out

(*SudanTribune.com* – 3 Oct. KHARTOUM) Eight people were killed in a shoot-out between Sudanese government forces and former rebels in the Darfur town of Nyala, a day before it was visited by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, officials said on Wednesday.

Shooting broke out between fighters loyal to the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Minni Arcua Minnawi and government personnel late on Tuesday, said a diplomatic source who asked not to be named. The United Nations confirmed it received reports of fighting in downtown Nyala soon after 9 p.m. local time on Tuesday night.

"The reports are that eight people in total were killed and there was an unspecified number of people injured," said a U.N. spokeswoman. "The reports were that the fighting was between SLM Minni Minnawi and the government." She added it was unclear whether it was the police or the army that was involved on the government side. No one was available for comment from Sudan's armed forces.

PNC effort sends medical supplies to ravaged Darfur

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette On April 10, a chartered plane packed with 25,000 pounds of emergency medical supplies landed in west Darfur, Sudan, one of the world's most dangerous places. The man responsible for the mission was PNC's William Demchak.

The vice chairman of Pittsburgh's largest bank is the organizing force behind the Darfur Project, a well-financed effort to assist with the genocidal conflict still raging in the western region of the Sudan.

With help from the Bridge Foundation, PNC and a list of other well-heeled Wall Street players are putting up millions to support eight private airlifts of essential drugs and medical relief over the next six months. The goal is to mitigate the effects of a crisis now responsible for the deaths of 200,000-400,000 people and the displacement of 2.5 million refugees, while raising public awareness and putting pressure on government officials to provide more assistance.

More information about the effort is available at

www.thedarfurproject.org.

SLM Minawi holds government responsible for Nyala events, authorities begin investigations

(*AlWatan*) the Secretary General of SLM Minawi, Omer Mohamed Ibrahim, condemned the "regular forces" in Nyala for attacking and killing two SLM elements and a student at the main station of the public transport. All the three were not armed. Many followers of the rebel movements are still under arrest. Ibrahim called on the government to release all those who have been detained in relation to this incident.

Alwan-- According to latest reports so far 5 people have lost their lives and 7 others injured. Justice authorities in the state informed that a number of suspects have been arrested. A campaign for collection of unauthorized arms will be carried out by the authorities in Nyala market and neighborhoods.

Masar warns of neglecting Arab tribes in Tripoli talks

President Advisor Eng. Abdalla Masar has called on the Darfur peace non-signatory factions to be prepared for serious negotiations in the coming round of talks in Tripoli.

He told Akhbar Alyoum daily that the decisive factor in the coming round of talks would be the identification of the agenda that should be debated on.

He added that the representation of all participating parties to the conflict should be considered as priority to protect the agreement, warning from neglecting the Arab tribes in the talks as they have to an integral part of the peace parties.

AU Spokesperson discloses new information on Haskanita incident

AU Spokesperson Nureedin Mezani put Wednesday the number of dead persons in Haskanita attack on the AU forces at 28, saying that 10 soldiers were killed in the AU Mission's Headquarters and 18 others in the field.

Mezani told a forum organized by (Akhbar Alyoum daily) on Darfur that the African troops were working in harsh conditions and financed verbally by the international community, adding that the African soldiers are sacrificing for the sake of their brothers in Darfur.

He confirmed the necessity of the rapid deployment of the hybrid forces in Darfur in a bid to bring about stability in the area calling for continuation of the political dialogue.