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# Highlights

## UN/Agencies

### UN says 55,000 people displaced in two months

AlAyam-- UN SG Assistant for Humanitarian Affairs pointed out that more than 55,000 persons have been displaced from their homes in Darfur State during the period from June to August this year adding that Rwanda has agreed to send a battalion of 800 soldiers to take part in UN-AU hybrid operation in October.

### GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

#### **SPLM warns government from single-handed decisions**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has the government from taking decisions single-handedly in order to avert risks of international sanctions on the people.

The government is to be held accountable for the repeated expulsions of diplomat and officials of the organizations operating in the country.

The country whose diplomats or officials have been expelled are staging media campaigns against the expulsions and the government is warned to be ware of that, said Atem Garang, Deputy Speaker of the National assembly. He added that the expulsion of the European Union and Care Organizations officials is a gross blunder as it was affected without referring to other parties in the coalition government.

The government should have taken its time to take these decisions as the European Union has a weighty political leverage that could not be ignored, said Garang.

He added that such decisions have political and economic impact on the country therefore; the decisions taking process must be done with consultation.

#### **Sudan welcomes visit of UN Secretary General**

*(AlRai AlAam)* The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has pointed out that it looks forward for fruitful talks with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the accompanying delegation that will arrive in Khartoum on Monday. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday said Ki-moon's visit to Sudan comes as a boost to the efforts of Sudan and the international community for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and solution of Darfur problem through

activation of the political track and supporting the efforts of the AU and UN envoys and implementation of Resolution 1769 on the hybrid operation in Darfur. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed on behalf of the Government of National Unity and the Sudanese people the Secretary General of the United Nations

### **South Sudan minister says Loam Akol is only a figurehead**

*(The Citizen)* Marial Benjamin went defensive Friday as South Sudan lawmakers demanded to know why the government of Southern Sudan had left the National Congress Party led government to direct the South's foreign policy, while also using an SPLM Minister Lam Akol to affect foreign policy that is disagreeable to the South.

The South Sudan Minister of Regional Cooperation pointed to a memorandum of Understanding signed with the National Ministry for international Cooperation to stem off attacks from lawmakers over why foreign investors coming to south Sudan always visited Khartoum first.

The memo mandates the South Sudan ministry for Regional Cooperation to act as the authority on Southern Sudan International Aid, the minister said. This responsibility has since the inception of the GoSS in 2005, lay on the shoulders of the federal government's ministry of international cooperation.

### **NCP and SPLM establish committee to investigate human rights and constitutional violations in North and South Sudan**

*(AlAyam)* The NCP and SPLM have agreed to set up a committee to investigate human rights and constitutional violations under the supervision of the Interior State Minister Ahmed Haroun and Agriculture State Minister Dr. Ann.

SPLM Secretary – General Pagan Amum said that the two partners also decided that the committee pay a visit to all political detainees in Kober prison including Deputy Vice-President of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Ali Mahmoud Hassanein and another visit to Juba to probe the situation of the alleged detention of NCP Students Affairs Secretary.

He added that the meeting reviewed constitutional violations committed by some government institutions at all levels as regards practices which violate human rights and curb the various freedoms stipulated in the interim constitution.

Amum noted that the two parties emphasized their commitment to the constitution, respect of human rights and basic freedoms and creating conducive atmosphere to achieve a democratic transformation in the country.

### **Chinese delegation concludes important visit to South Sudan, delegation donates \$3mil for combating malaria in South Sudan**

*(Akhbar Alyaum)* The Chinese delegation, currently visiting the country, has disclosed that China would donate the sum of \$ 3 million to combat malaria in South Sudan.

The delegation voiced China's willingness to speed up steps for the implementation of a package of vital projects in South Sudan stressing that it would expand in implementing oil, electricity and road projects.

Briefing the Finance State Minister Dr. Luwal Deng on the visit's outcome, the Head of the delegation Wang Lily called on the Chinese companies to enter into investment projects in South Sudan.

On his part, Deng, asserted the necessity of concentrating on unity projects between the North and the South saying that the GoNU was committed to execute national development projects and provide the required guarantees.

He confirmed that the GoSS has the right to sign projects with guarantees and find out mechanism to this effect demanding mapping out a time table for the projects intended to be implemented by China in Sudan before the fiscal year 2008.

### **US sanctions to be lifted if Sudan cooperates on Darfur force - report**

(*Alayam, Al Rai Aam, SudanTribune*) The United States would lift economic sanctions if Sudan cooperates in the deployment of international peacekeeping force in Darfur, Washington informed a visiting official.

According to the London based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, Washington intends to lift the sanctions imposed on Sudan when the deployment of the international forces in the troubled province of Darfur starts in October, if the Khartoum Government does not take steps to impede this deployment.

However some analysts say it is highly unlikely that US administration would lift economic sanctions on Sudan anytime soon.

The report also said that Washington intends to release two of the nine Sudanese detained in Guantanamo camp, but television cameraman Sami al-Haj will not be among them.

State minister for the foreign affairs, Al-Samani Al-Wasila said he held very important talks with Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte; Andrew Natsios, the American envoy to Sudan; and Jendayi Frazer, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs."

The minister described his visit to the United States of America and his talks there as frank, fruitful and positive and characterized by transparency and will have excellent effects on the relations between the two countries.

He said that a senior US official would visit Sudan in the coming period to continue the dialogue between the two countries which has started during his current visit to Washington.

In the same context, (*Al Rai AlAam daily*) noted that the US Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios would visit Sudan within the coming few days, while Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol would meet his US counterpart John Negroponte during the sessions of the UN General Assembly late next Sept.

According to the paper, reliable sources said that Washington is so concerned over obstacles laid by the Sudanese authorities hindering the clearance of building

materials intended by US for the construction of a new US embassy in Souba area, south of Khartoum.

The sources added that AlWaseela met a US official who is concerned with this issue without elaborating further.

Quoting what it described as informed sources (*AlWihda daily*) pointed out that Washington expressed satisfaction over Sudan's announcement that it foiled sabotage and terrorist attacks aimed at undermining western utilities including the US embassy in Khartoum.

The announcement said a number of persons connected with the planned attacks were detained and quantities of weapons were captured and accordingly the US was anticipated to appeal to the US Congress to lift Sudan's from the list of countries claimed to sponsoring terrorism.

Al-Wasila told the official SUNA that there would be another meeting with the American administration during the meetings of the UN General Assembly in New York in current September.

In the meantime, (*Alayam daily*) said that the UN warned of the deteriorating humanitarian situations in Darfur States.

Speaking to a press conference she held in New York, UN SG Assistant for Humanitarian Affairs pointed out those more than 55,000 persons were displaced from their homes in Darfur State in last June and August adding that Rwanda agreed to send a battalion of 800 soldiers to take part in UN-AU hybrid operation next Oct.

A statement issued by the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, said that Sudan and US agreed to continue talks in the near future adding that the two sides asserted the necessity of including peace non-signatories factions in the up- coming peace negotiations.

Although, the two parties stressed the vitality of deploying the hybrid force as quickly as possible, according to the embassy's statement, the Spokesperson of the US Department of State pinpointed that the real test for improving the bilateral relations lies on the deployment of the hybrid force and the government endeavors to solve political disputes in Darfur States.

### **SPLM official escapes assassination attempt**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. KHARTOUM) Reports from Khartoum indicate that deputy governor of Southern Kordofan Maj. Gen. Daniel Kodi has survived an assassination attempt during event he was addressing last Friday in the city of Kosti.

Eyewitnesses said that an unknown man in the audience handed an explosive device to a child and asked to proceed to the podium where Kodi was present. However the device exploded before the child made it to the podium and Kodi was unhurt.

### **Sudan hopes Ban's visit enhance its relations with UN**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government hoped on Friday that an upcoming visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Sudan would enhance the relations between the African country and the world organization.

"We expect that the visit will open a new page to start a constructive cooperation between Sudan and the United Nations," said Sirajaddin Hamid, Director of the Department of Peace and Humanitarian Affairs at the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The UN chief is due to begin a 5-day official visit to Sudan next Monday during which he will hold talks with President Omer al-Bashir and some other senior Sudanese officials.

Ban Ki-moon will also pay visit to southern Sudan and the western Sudanese region of Darfur to get acquainted with the situations there.

In an interview with the SUNA news agency, Hamid described Ban's visit as historic, saying that during the visit, the two sides would sketch new agenda for their prospective relations.

He explained that the UN chief would discuss a number of issues with the Sudanese officials, including the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in southern Sudan, the progress so far been achieved in conducting the hybrid peacekeeping operation in Darfur, as well as UN's in the realization of development in Darfur.

He noted that Sudan was looking for opening a new chapter in its relations with the UN based on mutual respect and respecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of Sudan.

### **Sudan Armed Forces to withdraw from oil areas**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. JUBA) Northern soldiers deployed in Sudan's vital southern oil fields will be withdrawn gradually, Sudanese Oil Minister Ahmed Awad al-Jazz said on Saturday.

The army missed a key July 9 deadline to redeploy all its soldiers to the north of Sudan as per a landmark January 2005 peace deal that ended Africa's longest civil war, which had claimed 2 million lives.

U.N. officials said most of the northern army's remaining troops were in the south's oil fields, where some 500,000 barrels per day of crude are pumped.

"As you know there is a difference between (when) you sign a peace on a paper and implement a peace on the ground. We know it takes some time," Jazz said. "Now that we are working peacefully, gradually we'll get everybody away from there." He declined to specify a withdrawal date.

Southern minister for regional cooperation, Barnaba Marial, said more than 16,000 northern troops were still in oil-producing areas, which he called a violation of the deal.

### **1117 of Eastern Front fighters demobilized**

(*Al-Sahafa*) North Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Re-integration Commission (NSDDR) has demobilized 152 of the former rebels of East Front (Bija Congress) at the Red Sea area as the first batch, in the presence of representatives of the Eastern Front, government officials and representatives of the regular forces.

Chairperson at the commission Brig. Abdulkareem Abdulfarag said this was the first operation in the demobilization process conducted by the DDR in the Eastern States indicating there was another program, which began in the same context in Kassala sector and led to demobilization of 287 in Kassala city and 678 in Kashmelgirba town.

Abdulfarag explained that the camps of Kassala, Port Sudan and Kashmelgirba would be finally closed down on September 4 pointing out that a great number of those demobilized should be admitted to the armed forces and other regular forces.

### **Minister of Interior: Darfur will be fully stable by end of current year**

Khartoum, Sept. 2 (*SUNA*) - Stability and peace will be achieved in Darfur by the end of the current year so that efforts would be dedicated to development, said Minister of Interior, Prof. El-Zubeir Bashir Taha. This came when the Minister addressed the police force assigned to protect Wad Banda area in North Kordofan State following the recent aggression against the area by the Justice and Equality Movement.

Prof. Taha reiterated that unity of Sudan will be maintained despite the challenges, affirming that all the plots by the colonial powers will be thwarted. Meanwhile, the Governor of North Kordofan State, Dr. Faisal Hassan Ibrahim, urged the political forces and leaders of native administration to unify their ranks in order to foil the international ambitions and conspiracies being woven against the country.

### **The government to reconsider expulsion of CARE Director**

(*Alayam*) Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Kosta Matibi has announced that he will start discussions with the Director of CARE, who was expelled last week by the government, in a bid to seek possibility of resuming his activities.

Following a meeting of the Supreme Committee consisting of the UN and the government, a statement issued by the committee said that the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs as well as UN officials expressed anxiety over the expulsion of CARE Director as it would affect the work of CARE, has been implementing a lot of programs in Sudan.

## **GoSS**

### **Minister tells South Sudan officials no money without transparency**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. JUBA) Any government of Southern Sudan ministers and states that failed to send in their financial statements on block grants money will not get their monthly grants from September this year, GoSS Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Kuol Athain Mawin has said.

Speaking at the closing session of three days workshop of states consultative meeting last evening, Kuol Athain Mawin said his ministry will no longer entertain states which failed to send in their financial statements on money given to them through block account; and advising them to be prepared to face reaction from desperate employees within their respective ministries and states because of their own inefficient mistakes.

The minister delivered the closing remarks at the first states consultative workshop held in Juba capital of southern Sudan attended by more than 300 seniors financial leaders from 28th to 30th August 2007.

The ministry of finance had requested both GoSS ministries and states to submit in their pay sheets by 20th of every month to enable finance staff to have ample time for checking and transferring their due in time for prompt payment but none of the institutions have complied with the directive instead blame ministry of finance for delaying monthly payment of employees.

“Any state that does not avail their statements of account on block grants transferred to their account by GoSS treasury will have to forfeit their monthly grant until their reports are received and checked by staff of the ministry of Finance and Economic planning, declared Mawein. He went further saying that whether a state has a budget line or not, they ought to account for money sent into their individual state account”.

The minister said by September this year his ministry will have to impose strict financial regulations especially on accountability on money sent to ministries including the ten states of southern Sudan. Adding that any ministries or states that do not adhere to their directive will risk forfeiting their monthly grants, Mawein said.

The minister, on the other hand, announced with dismay that some of southern Sudanese employees have deeply indulged themselves in looting their own government by getting double or triple monthly salaries from various institutions including army, police, prison and wildlife organized forces including the ten states of southern Sudan.

He went on warning those corrupt individuals to immediately stop their unbecoming behaviors otherwise they will be charged and made to account for looting public funds.

### **Amum calls on citizens of South Kordofan to abandon violence**

(*Alwan, Alayam*)- Secretary – General of SPLM Pagan Amum has called on the citizens of South Kordofan to abandon all kinds of differences and work together in harmony for the welfare of the State.

Addressing a mass rally in Kadogli organized for welcoming Deputy Wali Daniel Kodi, who survived a recent assassination attempt, Amum urged the people to turn



down any attempts aimed at dividing the citizens into either Muslims and Christians or African and Arabs.

He indicated the importance of cooperation between the ruling partners to implement the security arrangements protocol in both South Kordofan and Blue Nile States saying that the priority of the newly-appointed government was the application of the security arrangements protocol, restructuring of the executive and civil institutions.

Amum appealed to Kodi to abide by the spirit of cooperation with NCP for the sake of the stability of the citizens of the State who suffered a lot of marginalization adding that the sustainable development could not be realized without the availability of drinking water and health and educational services in the State.

He emphasized that despite the fact that South Kordofan is an oil producing area, it suffers from marginalization, backwardness and lack of basic services.

Meanwhile, Kodi accused an unidentified group in Khartoum in arming militias in South Kordofan State demanding the implementation of the security arrangements protocol and expediting the re-integration of Other Armed Groups (OAG) either in SAF or in the SPLA. He vowed to restructure the civil service in the State calling for the necessity of coordination between the two partners.

## **Darfur**

### **AU confirms Darfur rebel attack**

*(The Citizen)* The African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) has confirmed a Darfur rebel attack on a garrison in Kordofan.

SLM and JEM commanders claimed Wednesday that they had captured Wad Banda, 80 km from Kordofan, scattering more than 1,700 Sudan Armed Forces and capturing a garrison they accused the national army of using to launch attacks.

The attack and the capture of the garrison was a source of contention with the SAF dismissing the rebel claims.

In a statement, the African Union doesn't say whether the rebels captured the garrison or not, but it warns that the attack could thwart efforts at finding peace in the region. "The AU has learned with dismay of an incident in Wad Banda in which a Sudanese army base was attacked on Wednesday 29 August, 2007" according to the statement.

AMIS noted that SLA and JEM claimed responsibility for the attack.

### **SLM commander (Suliman Marian Suliman) denies participation in West Kordofan attack**

*(The Citizen)* A leading commander from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SPLM) has denied participation of his group in an attack against the positions of the Sudanese army in West Darfur state on Wednesday August 29.

Suliman Marajan Suliman Major, one of the top commanders of the SLM, told Sudan Tribune, by satellite telephone that none of the commanders or the troops of the movement had taken part in the Justice and Equality Movement (Justice and Equality Movement) attack against army base in Wad Banda, western Kordofan.

The rebel commander said the SLM is committed to ceasefire agreement signed in 2004.

He further said, "we use force only to defend our self if we are attacked" Marajan added that Khartoum had used to involve our name in such action to justify its aggression against our people".

### **Malnutrition, lawlessness are increasing in Darfur - UN**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. UNITED NATIONS) Malnutrition is increasing in Sudan's violence-wracked Darfur region along with lawlessness and the number of people fleeing their homes, a senior U.N. official said.

"The humanitarian situation in the last few months has become more critical in many parts of Darfur," Assistant Secretary-General Margareta Wahlstrom, the U.N.'s deputy humanitarian chief, told a news conference Friday.

She said she expects Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to raise the worsening humanitarian situation in Darfur with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir when he visits Sudan next week.

She said 18 spot surveys by U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the three Darfur provinces all found that for the first time in three years the number of malnutrition cases has increased beyond the emergency threshold of 15 percent to "well over 17 percent being detected in some areas."

While there is still a question of whether the increasing malnutrition represents a permanent deterioration, or whether it is the result of the lean season between harvests, Wahlstrom emphasized that in past years "we have never seen a decline."

"We put this in the context of the very unstable situation in the area," she said.

U.N. agencies will continue to do surveys and try to counteract the trend, Wahlstrom said.

She said the daily attacks, banditry, lawlessness and other violence that affects Darfurians has also affected aid workers. The number of incidents directed against aid workers, from car hijackings to the looting of convoys and violent attacks against individuals, has increased by 150 percent, she said.

### **Darfur rebel reported to have killed 41 in Kordofan attack**

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1 Sept. KHARTOUM) Sudanese rebels from war-torn Darfur killed 41 people in an attack earlier this week on a base for government forces in the

neighboring Kordofan region, Sudan's interior ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"Information shows there were 41 martyrs, including people from the area," the ministry said, without saying how many of the dead were members of its forces.

Local residents contacted by the Associated Press by phone, however, said that the death toll was closer to 58 people killed in the attack.

On Wednesday, Darfur rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army's Unity faction (SLA Unity) said they had seized an army base in Wad Banda in North Kordofan State.

The interior ministry said the attack was on a base for central reserve forces, a branch of the police.

The fighting came just days before U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was due to arrive in Sudan to try to set a timetable to revive Darfur peace talks between the government and rebels after a May 2006 deal faltered.

The rebels said the base they attacked was the logistical and supply centre for ongoing attacks in South Darfur, where rebels say an aerial bombing campaign has driven thousands of people from their homes over the past month.

Rebels have claimed they held the town for several hours while the military maintained the attack was ultimately repulsed.

The Sudanese interior ministry statement said that following the Kordofan attack, a combined force of police and armed forces pursued the rebels and captured a number of them in an ambush. It did not say how many rebels it captured.

It added that it would also prosecute anybody suspected of inciting or abetting the attack and anybody else who gave sanctuary to the rebels.

JEM commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr denied any of the group's men were arrested: "That's not true ... The battle is over and we defeated the armed forces."

The U.N. and AU hope to launch peace talks in October and both voiced concern about the impact of the attack on Wad Banda on the peace process.

### **Rwanda to send more 800 peacekeepers for Darfur mission**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* The Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) has offered yet another battalion of 800 troops for the new hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur reported the Rwandan newspaper *The New Times*. Rwanda already has close to 2,000 people have died and another 2.5m left homeless since 2003.

According to the RDF spokesman, Maj. Jill Rutaremara, the new contingent will be airlifted for the mission from 15-26 October. "The additional 800-strong battalion will

be backed by a heavy support package and will be deployed in Sector One, El Fashir,” Rutaremara said from the RDF headquarters in Kimihurura.

He said that the new battalion will arrive in Sudan ahead of the logistics, adding that the contingent is already papered. The airlifting of the new battalion will coincide with the rotation of three with the rotation of three RDF battalions that will have completed their mandatory six months, which starts on 20 September through 7 December.