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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

⇒ **UN/Agencies**

- UN Chief arrives Khartoum outlines plan for solving Darfur crisis and leaves for Juba
- UN must pressure Sudan on Darfur suspects: ICC prosecutor
- National census postponed to next year, says UNFPA

⇒ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Washington: willing to normalize bilateral relations with Khartoum
- Khartoum discusses return of CARE director
- US Embassy condemns attack on Wad Banda
- Sudan ambassador to UN: Sudan fulfills commitment towards resolution 1769
- Sudan detains opposition PCP lawyer for defaming police

⇒ **GoSS**

- GoSS demands Egypt to ban infiltration of Sudanese into Israel
- Kiir wants list of those causing bad blood in Juba
- South Sudan fails to join Eastern Africa police body

⇒ **Darfur**

- Armed group attack citizen in South Kordofan
- Three casualties in clashes between police and Darfur fighter
- SLM leader denies contacts with Turabi on Darfur
- Darfur figure still in wait for Sudan green light

Highlights

UN/Agencies

UN Chief arrives Khartoum outlines plan for solving Darfur crisis and leaves for Juba

(*AlSudani, Sudan Tribune, AlWihda*) The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon arrived here on Monday evening amid tight security measures in a bid to jumpstart the stalemated peace process in war-ravaged Darfur States ahead of a massive joint UN- AU peacekeeping operation.

Kicking off his program, Ki Moon delivered a lecture at the Friendship Hall in which he said the conflict in Darfur began "in part because of drought. When the rains failed, farmers and herders fell into competition for an increasingly scarce resource."

"The decisions of man to wage war over these precious natural resources further compounded other factors and challenges." He underlined.

"As part of the solution, the Government with international assistance will have to ensure that the people of Darfur have access to vital natural resources – water being chief among them. The UN stands ready to assist in this effort." He added

He noted that the suffering of Darfur people is now on its way to end through the collective efforts of the Government, the United Nations and the African Union, referring to the hybrid operation. He pointed out that his visit to Sudan shows his concern with the Sudanese issue.

During the lecture which was attended by UN workers, local political leaders, officials and representatives of the Darfurians, Ban Ki-moon outlined on Monday a three-point plan for solving the conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

The plan sketched by the UN Chief includes the implementation of an international peacekeeping operation, seeking a political solution through peace negotiations as well as promoting humanitarian aid and development.

Ban lamented the conflicts in Darfur and pledged the part of the international community to help solve the crises and stop standing by as "seemingly helpless witnesses."

"This unprecedented operation marks a new era in UN-AU cooperation," Ban said, noting that "it is one of the largest and most complex peacekeeping missions the UN has ever undertaken."

He reiterated that "peacekeeping must be accompanied by a political solution," urging the parties involved in the conflict to "begin a new and conclusive round of peace negotiations as soon as possible."

Ban said that any real solution to the Darfur conflict "requires sustained economic development and solutions that go to the root causes of the conflict."

"As part of the solution, the (Sudanese) government with international assistance will have to ensure that the people of Darfur have access to vital natural resources - water being chief among them. The UN stands ready to assist in this effort," the UN chief added.

He said that the current international relief operation in Darfur, the world's largest humanitarian operation assisting more than 4.2 million people, must continue.

Local officials expected that at the end of the visit, the Sudanese government and the UN chief will announce the date and the place of the next round of the Darfur peace negotiations, which has been deadlocked since the Sudanese government signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) with a main rebel faction in May, 2006.

Sudanese Foreign Minister lam Akol on Monday praised Ban Ki-moon for his continuous concern with the Darfur issue, noting that Ban's visit would be a good opportunity which Sudan must use take in order to keep dialogue, discussion and exchange of views with the UN chief.

UN officials said that Ban Ki-moon would ask the Sudanese government to accelerate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1769 on the UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

Some Sudanese officials have criticized some donor countries of failing to keep their promises of providing financial helps to Sudan after the government signed the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006, asking the UN to exert pressures on these countries.

Ban Ki-moon gave Sudan a warning on human rights after arriving on Monday to lay the groundwork for an end to the Darfur conflict through talks and deployment of thousands of peacekeepers.

Aides said Ban, on his first visit to Sudan, would seek commitment to his plan from Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and visit a refugee camp in the western Sudanese Darfur region. He met Bashir for dinner on Monday evening.

In an interview with Italian newspaper La Repubblica on Monday, Ban said Bashir had promised him cooperation in a weekend telephone conversation. "He told me he will do everything to help the mission logistically," he said.

In an apparent gesture of goodwill before Ban's visit, a Sudanese official said on Sunday Khartoum was discussing the possible return of the country director of U.S.-based aid agency CARE, expelled last week for alleged meddling in internal security. The United Nations had criticized the expulsion.

Earlier, on arrival statements, Ban Ki-moon has expressed pleasure over visiting Sudan, pointing out that he will discuss with the government's officials the progress made in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the efforts being exerted for realizing peace in Darfur.

Ki-moon called on all parties for cessation of hostilities, condemning the attack launched by one of the armed movements on Wad Banda area recently and expressed condolences to the families of the victims of policemen.

He pointed out that his talks with President Omer Al-Bashir and other senior officials would discuss implementation of the commitments and realization of peace and security in Sudan, namely in Darfur besides progress in implementation of the CPA and financing development plans for the Sudanese people.

In another development, the French government expressed willingness to boost the role of UN in solving Darfur crisis welcoming the visit being paid to Sudan by Ki Moon.

Spokesperson of the French Foreign Ministry said that France welcomes Ban's visit and his attempts to find out durable settlement to Darfur's issue drawing the attention to the visit he paid to Paris last June to take part in an international forum, held purposely to discuss Darfur problem.

She noted that Ban's current visit to Sudan preceded discussions that are taking place in the UN General-Assembly and Security Council to verify seriousness of the UN task there.

UN must pressure Sudan on Darfur suspects: ICC prosecutor

(The Citizen, Sudan Tribune) The UN must pressure Sudan to bring to justice two suspects wanted over atrocities committed in Darfur, the International Criminal Court's prosecutor said in an interview with AFP Monday.

Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo made the comments as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Khartoum ahead of a massive joint UN-African Union peacekeeping operation in the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur.

Moreno-Ocampo met Ban on Wednesday in New York. "I asked him to bring up the arrest warrants," he said.

Countries that are members of the ICC must also do more on the issue, he said.

"This is the law ... The state parties have to assume their responsibilities," he said. "In four years, the court has become operational, more mature. We want to go farther, we have to get more support. We need consistency."

In May, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Ahmed Haroun, the secretary of state for humanitarian affairs, and pro-government Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kosheib, but Sudan has refused to hand them over.

Before Wednesday's meeting with Moreno-Ocampo, Ban told reporters: "This is a very important issue. The ICC has issued the warrant of arrest for two people in Sudan and I'm going to discuss this matter with the president of the ICC."

Since taking office in January Ban has made the Darfur crisis his top priority and will seek to ensure during his Sudan visit that the 26,000 strong UN-AU force can be deployed quickly and effectively to protect beleaguered civilians.

He is to meet officials in Juba in southern Sudan and Al-Fasher in Darfur before meeting President Omar al-Beshir in Khartoum on Thursday. He is then to visit Chad and Libya.

Some have expressed concerns that the ICC's Darfur work is being sidelined.

The International Federation for Human Rights in August welcomed the approval of the UN-AU force, but said Sudan's cooperation with the ICC must also be stressed.

Moreno-Ocampo said he wants the arrest warrants to be addressed at two international conferences later this month in New York, with one specifically dedicated to Darfur.

Further delays in executing the warrants would add to the suffering of victims who must serve as witnesses, he said. Some have been placed under witness protection, which often means being isolated from their families.

National census postponed to next year, says UNFPA

(Al-Sahafa) The UNFPA has announced that the government decided to postpone a nation-wide national census, which is considered as a necessity for a success national elections and referendum for South Sudan.

UNFPA, which the lead UN Agency in the census process, the census was postponed due to the delay of the financial contribution on the part of the Government of National Unity (GoNU).

The Fund said that the deadline of conducting the census has been changed from 15th of Nov. 2007 to the 2nd of Nov. 2008, adding that the GoNU pledged to pay its ration out of \$ 54.2 and agreed to provide the sum of \$ 30 by the end of next Oct.

It pinpointed that, while the international community agreed to allocate additional sum, the donors accepted to pay their contribution estimated at \$22 million.

In the same context, South Sudan's Bureau of Statistics accused the Federal government of delaying to pay its contribution of the census cost.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Washington: willing to normalize bilateral relations with Khartoum

(Al-Rai AlAam) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has extended an invitation to a level US senior delegation to visit the country within the up coming period.

Al- Rai AlAam daily reported that a high level US delegation is due here soon to finalize dialogue between the two countries which has started during the recent visit of State Foreign Minister AlSamani AlWaseela to US.

Diplomatic sources said the US Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios would be among the delegation besides other senior US diplomats adding that the deadline of the visit would be set through the diplomatic channels between the two governments.

Meanwhile, US Department of State described the talks of AlWaseela as “useful” pointing out to the willingness of the two countries to thaw the chilled bilateral relations.

A statement issued by the Department, noted that the two sides discussed issues of Darfur, Abyei, CPA and deployment of UN-AU hybrid forces emphasizing the two sides agreement on the necessity of deploying the peace keeping forces adopted in accordance of the SC No. 1769.

Khartoum discusses return of CARE director

(*AlSahafa*) Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Koste Manibi has asserted that the concerned authorities are currently conducting talks with US-based CARE humanitarian organization as regards the return of its Director Paul Barker, expelled late last August by the government.

Earlier, the Sudanese authorities accused Barker of exceeding his humanitarian jurisdictions and interfered in internal Sudanese security affairs.

Manibi said that his Ministry is involving with Barker in discussions prior to his possible resumption of his duties maintaining that the issue would be thoroughly debated on pending the anticipated visit of CARE Regional Director in the near future.

US Embassy condemns attack on Wad Banda

(*AlKhabar Alyaum*) The US Embassy in Khartoum has strongly condemned the attack carried out by some armed factions of Darfur movements on Wad Band area, South Kordofan late last month.

Statement by the embassy stressed its denunciation to acts of violence in Sudan which, it said, leads to losses among civilians.

The statement welcomed Sudan’s acceptance to the SC Resolution No. 1769 expressing its satisfaction over the outcome of the Arusha conference whereby all rebel movements agreed on a joint position for the up coming talks with the government.

The statement voiced full support to the implementation of the CPA and DPA, which includes the disarmament of the militias and establishment of the transitional regional authority.

Sudan ambassador to UN: Sudan fulfills commitment towards resolution 1769

(*AlHayat, SUNA*) Sudan Permanent Envoy to the United Nations Ambassador Abdel-Mahmoud Abdel-Halim has affirmed that Sudan has fulfilled all its commitments

concerning Resolution 1769 and is committed to extend all facilities for implementation of the resolution, calling on the UN to fulfill its commitments in this regard.

Ambassador Abdel-Halim, in a press statement Monday, said the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, would discuss during his current visit to Sudan the peaceful process in Darfur and date and venue of the coming negotiations with the movements that did not sign Abuja peace agreement, pointing out that the government will inform the Secretary General with the violations committed by some movements, such as what happened recently at Wad Banda area in North Kordofan State.

He added that the Secretary General would also tackle in his talks with the Sudanese officials issues pertinent to the humanitarian cooperation, especially implementation of the humanitarian cooperation agreement, signed in last March.

The visit will also tackle the file of rehabilitation and development in Darfur, he said, pointing out that the Secretary General himself wrote recently an article in which he attributed Darfur problem to the environmental deterioration and climatic changes. This is besides discussing the role of the UN agencies in supporting the programs of development, stability and peace in Sudan.

Sudan detains opposition PCP lawyer for defaming police

(Sudan Tribune) Sudanese authorities have detained a legal adviser to the opposition Popular Congress Party, on charges of defaming the police, a party official said on Monday.

Kamal Omar, also the lead lawyer in the trial of 10 men charged in last year's murder of a Sudanese newspaper editor, was arrested on Sunday and spent the night in solitary confinement, party official Hassan Abdullah al-Hussein said.

He told Reuters Omar was charged with defamation over an article he published last week in the party's newspaper detailing what he described as the police torture of the 10 defendants.

Hussein said the article angered the government security authorities who charged Omar "under section 159 of the criminal code which concerns publishing lies".

The interior ministry declined to comment.

The party official said Omar was expected to be released later on Monday.

Omar told a Khartoum court in August the confessions of the 10 defendants had been extracted under torture. He pleaded "not guilty" for all of them.

Omar's detention is the latest in a series of recent crackdowns by Sudanese security agencies on opposition parties.

Authorities have been holding 25 people, including Mubarak al-Fadil, head of the opposition Umma Party for Reform and Renewal, since June in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government.

Last month, security officials arrested 10 people and confiscated 15,000 copies of an opposition newspaper for reporting on police violence against protesters in northern Sudan.

Sima Samar, the U.N. special rapporteur for human rights in Sudan, said this month she was concerned about the arrests of opposition politicians and urged more transparency from the government.

GoSS

GoSS demands Egypt to ban infiltration of Sudanese into Israel

(AlWihda) A leading SPLM Leader has categorically denied any Israeli presence in South Sudan working in any fields dismissing allegations of issuing entry visas to Israelis to South Sudan.

Farmena Makwait, Head of GoSS to the Arab League, said that both South and North of Sudan would not accept diplomatic relations with Israel adding that in case of any Israeli presence that would be considered as illegal residence and therefore should be treated as infiltrators similar to those Sudanese who crossed the border to Israel.

He added that all the Sudanese people and its government are against normalization of relations with Israel ruling out any intention of GoSS of Israeli investment in South Sudan.

Makwait stressed that the South was an integral part of the North and it was represented in the Arab League saying the unity between the South and the North was the source of unified Sudan.

He further hailed the Egyptian government's efforts to embark on implementing various projects in electricity, agriculture, education, irrigation and broadcast fields.

He called on the Arab states to invest in the South rich natural resources and consolidate bonds between the Southerners and their Arab brothers.

Kiir wants list of those causing bad blood in Juba

(The Citizen) The President of the Government of Southern Sudan Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir has asked Central Equatoria to name individuals alleged to be causing bad blood between the regional government and the state government, according to top lawmakers.

Last week, members of state Assembly Business Committee presented their petition to president of GoSS Salva Kiir.

Committee Chairperson Hon. Lianed logo said in Parliament Tuesday, the President of Goss has given them a go-ahead to name those in his (Kiir) administration who are causing disharmony.

South Sudan fails to join Eastern Africa police body

(SudanTribune.com) Eastern African police chiefs have turned down Southern Sudan's request to join their cooperation. The regional police bosses, under the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO), have been meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi where Southern Sudan had forwarded their admission request.

In an interview with Kigali based The New Times yesterday, EAPCCO Secretariat Legal Officer, Michael Wiso, said that international law restricts them to allow Southern Sudan to be registered as a member state.

"It is an interim government and not a sovereign state under the international law," Wiso said.

He said that a legal sub-committee had earlier recommended the admission under the spirit of the cooperation.

"We did not want to appear as if we are favoring the relations with greater Sudan, but since Southern Sudan has not been recognized internationally as a sovereign state until six years, they can not legitimately be given the status of the independent countries," Wiso said.

A Khartoum delegation also rejected the request saying they didn't want Southern Sudan to be recognised as a country representing itself.

However, EAPCCO says Southern Sudan will always be allowed to attend their meetings as an observer to borrow some experiences from member states." Leaving them in a corner will not assist given that they emerging from a war," Wiso observed.

He added: "We did not want to appear declaring Southern Sudan as an independent state out of Sudan."

The issue became a burden to the police chiefs and resolved to pass it on for their respective internal security ministers to discuss it at a political level.

Rwanda's Internal Security Minister, Musa Fazil Harerimana told The New Times yesterday: "It is supposed to be done both by the international community but we as ministers only discuss issues tabled before us on a political level by the police chiefs and the Southern Sudan issue is just direct."

Burundi's Police chief and the incoming chairman of the EAPCCO, Maj. Gen. Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, said the council of the police chiefs re-affirmed their membership is restricted to recognized sovereign states.

"We have therefore resolved to reject their application," Bunyoni said.

A breakthrough in the peace process between northern and southern Sudan after a civil war, the entire government in April 1997 agreed to allow a referendum on self-determination for the south. The referendum gave the southern people the option of either unity or independence.

"They are still in a transition process and are just learning under the armpit of the greater Sudan. We are allowing them to observe our activities but we are also upholding the international relations between us, other countries and Sudan," Wiso said.

The responsibility of the legal office is to technically interpret laws and advise the EAPCCO chair and the secretariat.

The ministers and police chief were attending the 7th and the 9th EAPCCO annual general meeting respectively.

The meeting was also attended by government and non government organizations and the UN agency on drugs.

Darfur

Armed group attack citizen in South Kordofan

(Rai AlShaab) An armed group suspected of being affiliated to JEM, Kordofan sector set fire Monday on three vehicles of the Ministry of Agriculture in Alwadi , Abyie area , some 30k of Muglad town.

Agricultural Manager at Abyei Commission Eng. Mohamed Abass told the paper that the 30 member armed group was disguised obstructed their convoy while they were back from Aldibab, South East of Muglad.

The group evacuated the vehicles from the passengers and set fire on the cars. He said they were not harmed, but the armed group asked them to convey a message that the group is affiliated to JEM.

Three casualties in clashes between police and Darfur fighter

(Khartoum Monitor) One person died and two were injured in clashes between the police and fighters of Darfuri faction in Morni, Western Darfur State.

The fighters are under the command of Ibrahim Yahia, who signed a peace deal with the government four months ago.

Tension prevails between elements who are signatory to the peace deal and government elements in Western Dafur, said a reliable source. Morni is 25 kilometer to the east of Al-Ginaina, capital of Western Darfur.

SLM leader denies contacts with Turabi on Darfur

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement, AbdelWahid Mohamed Nur, has denied contacts with the Secretary General of the Islamist opposition Popular Congress Party, Dr. Hassan el-Turabi.

During a visit last week to Shendi in River Nile State, Dr. Hassan el-Turabi said that he had made contacts with AbdelWahid Nur. He said that their discussions addressed the SLM's demands and its views to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Nur said however that he had no direct or indirect contacts with the PCP leader. He further added that he had no common grounds with Dr. Turabi in order to hold such discussions.

Darfur figure still in wait for Sudan green light

(*Sudan Tribune*) A Darfur rebel figure who is confined in a UN hospital in southern Kordofan said Sudanese president has directed his release in order to allow his departure abroad but the presidential decree not yet reached the UN.

Suleiman Jamous, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) humanitarian coordinator told Sudan Tribune from UN military hospital in Kadugli, that Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir has issued a presidential decree authorizing the UN mission in Sudan to proceed with his transfer aboard for treatment.

Whoever, Suleiman said that the decision is not yet notified officially to the UNMIS. The humanitarian coordinator who suffers from an abdominal complaint needs a stomach biopsy which cannot be performed in the U.N. hospital.

Last month, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said the Khartoum government told the world body that Jamous was free to leave the hospital for medical treatment abroad and could return to Darfur under condition he not fight.

Jamous has been virtually imprisoned in a U.N. hospital near Darfur for more than 13 months after the United Nations airlifted him there for medical treatment. Khartoum was not informed of the U.N. move and calls Jamous a criminal. It had said he would be arrested if he leaves U.N. care.

The United Nations had moved him to a U.N. hospital near Darfur more than a year ago without informing Khartoum. Sudan has called him a criminal and has said it would arrest him if he left U.N. care.

Suleiman Jamous, 62-year-old, had been detained by Minni Minawi on 20 May 2006 after his opposition to Darfur Peace Agreement. The former UN special envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk had obtained his release on 22 June 2006 and transported him to

Kadugli in a UNMIS hospital for medical treatment; but also to protect him from Minawi.

Supplement: [Darfur Chaos: New Arab-versus-Arab dimension](#)