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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN's Ban says concerned by Govt. attack in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) (UN News) -Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today expressed deep concern at the Sudanese Government's "brutal aerial and ground attack" on a South Darfur town that has left at least 25 civilians dead and took place just days after the United Nations chief visited the war-torn region.

Ban told the Security Council that the attack indicated that "we must all renew our strong appeals to the parties to show restraint in the lead-up to political negotiations in October" that are being held to try to resolve the conflict that has engulfed Darfur since 2003.

The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) – which is operating in Darfur until the hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force (UNAMID) takes over next year – reported that fierce fighting took place yesterday afternoon after an aerial and ground attack on Haskanita in South Darfur State.

In a closed-door briefing on his visit to Sudan, Chad and Libya, which ended at the weekend, Mr. Ban said the attack was an apparent retaliation for an attack by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on the Wad Banda military base on 29 August. JEM is one of the rebel groups that did not sign last year's Darfur Peace Agreement with the Government.

Ban said that although his trip to the region had brought "good progress," particularly the announcement that political negotiations between the Government and rebels will take place in Libya on 27 October, "I will not say that we have had any successes yet."

The Secretary-General said the UN is moving quickly to establish a trust fund to support the peace process and other assistance measures, and he told Council members that he will soon appeal to Member States to contribute to that fund.

Ban, Bashir discuss ways to supply Darfur peacekeepers with water

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) The UN Secretary-General told the Security Council today that he discussed with the Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir how to supply the 26000 peacekeepers with water in the arid western Sudan region of Darfur.

Ki-Moon Ban told the Security Council that Sudanese al-Bashir was alarmed by the shortage of water in Darfur particularly with the deployment of the important peacekeeping mission of 26000 troops starting from the next October.

"President Bashir expressed his Government's concern that, if 26,000 peacekeepers used the already limited water resources in Darfur, Darfurians would have to experience even greater difficulty."

He further informed the Council that "President Bashir advised us to explore our own water resources in the area of Saq Alayam, just 40 kilometres from El Fasher."

Ban, also insisted during his briefing to the Council that development of water resources is crucial to ensure a lasting peace in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's police say illegal weapons operation was successful

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) Sudanese police said that campaigns to search for illegal weapons launched by Khartoum State's security authorities on Tuesday 11 September have resulted in the seizure of a large number of illegal weapons from citizens.

The assistant general commander of Khartoum State's police force, Lt-Gen Mohamed Nagi al-Tayeb said the confiscated weapons included a large number of Kalashnikovs, machine guns and revolvers in addition to large quantities of various types of ammunition and grenades.

Tayeb further said in press statements that the security plan to find and confiscate illegal weapons had been implemented by the state's police force jointly with the area's central military commanders and the security and intelligence organ. He said the plan was implemented successfully and in a highly professional way.

He reaffirmed that the campaign had targeted all of Khartoum State's localities where information indicated the presence of illegal weapons. He said these security plans would continue in order for the capital to become secure and stable, and the phenomenon of illegal weapons had declined.

Further, Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali al-Mardi stressed that carrying or possessing unlicensed weapons had become one of the phenomena that terrorized citizens and showed the country to be in a state of chaos and insecurity.

While the chairman of the security and Defense committee in the federal parliament, Lt Gen. Jalal Taur Kaffi, has slammed SPLM protest against campaigns to search for illegal weapons. He described the operation as positive step. He further said the SPLM is supposed to empty its offices from weapons.

The SPLM Secretary General for northern Sudan, Yassir Arman, yesterday denounced the police raid on its offices in Khartoum, Khartoum North and Al-Daym. Arman said that despite the fact that police commanders and other authorities knew that the SPLM is part of the ruling and security establishment, the SPLM had not been notified about the search of its office or allowed to oversee the operation.

Intensive Libyan-Sudanese meetings to pave the way for Tripoli conference

(*Alwan*) The AU representative in the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Al Teriki praised the Libyan Egyptian cooperation in the process of settling the Darfur issue. In statements to Al Ahram newspaper, he stated that there would be more consultations before the meeting decided by the UN in Libya on 27th October, 2007.

Al Teriki added that the neighboring countries: Chad and Eritrea will be contacted for preparation for the conference. He pointed out that important meetings between Sudan and Libya would be held.

The Libyan official expressed optimism that there is great hope after they had met the non-signatory Darfuri factions in Arusha in Tanzania last August and also after the agreement of some Darfuri factions in Libya to unify their programmes so as to commence talks with the government to settle the Darfur issue.

He described Ban Ki-Moon visit to Sudan, Chad and Libya as successful and pointed to the successful preparatory meeting of Ban Ki-Moon and the Libyan leader Muammar Al Gaddafi. Al Teriki confirmed that the 27th October, 2007 is the fixed date for talks

Government sets up investigation committee to probe UNMIS claims

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The Sudanese Human Rights Advisory Council Rapporteur Dr. Adel Muniem Osman ha confirmed in a statement to reporters at the Council HQ that Justice Minister Al Mardi has issued a decree to form an investigative committee headed by chief legal advisor Ahmed Ali Almotaksi and made up of police, security and state government representatives and representatives from the Unit on Violence Against Women.

The Committee is chard with evaluating United Nations Mission in Sudan claims of kidnapping of women in Aldiribat made by organization in its report for the last week of August, vested with authorities delegated by the Justice Minister under the 1925 Investigation Committee Act and the 1991 Criminal Investigation Law.

The UNIMS report, which names three suspects from AbulGasim Faction, was later adopted by the Human Rights High Commissioner Louis Arbor in a press conference earlier this month.

The government had urged UNMIS to postpone publication of the report until the incident is corroborated by a joint UNMIS Advisory Council. The committee so far has received no response from the organization prompting it to form its own investigative committee. The decree to form the committee urged human rights observers World Health Organization drafted the report to cooperate with the committee and provide it with essential information.

NCP: SPLM fails to transfer to political party

(Al-Rai AlAam) National Congress (NCP) regrets for SPLM signals to return to war. The NC said the language of returning to war highlighted by SPLM represents inability to transform into political party instead of military fighting group.

NC secretary for foreign affairs Dr Kamal Ubaid said that his party is firmly committed to peace so that the party can implement its program of action.

He calls those who were hitting drums of war that they should realize that NC is capable to confront circumstances of war if it was imposed. However, he said the NC

estimates that there was no need to recall bad circumstance that had previously encouraged war.

He said during bad circumstances southerners were enforced by those who engineered war in the past to desert the south and migrated toward north living in safety haven under protection of their relatives the northerners. Dr. Obied however urges those who fought on behalf of southerners to think of maintaining sustainable peace in favor of their people whoever, they live across the country.

He explained that CPA has been a logical alternative after long bloody war. However any restart of war was violation to CPA and that should be wrong estimation against the aspiration of the nation. Obeid concludes by saying that the international community however, should realize who is for sustainable peace and who is not.

Darfur

Darfur rebel figure to leave for Kenya within 48 hours

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Darfur longtime confined figure Suleiman Jamous will leave the UN hospital in southern Kordofan within 48 hours heading to Kenya for medical treatment.

The humanitarian coordinator of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Suleiman Jamous told Sudan Tribune that he has been informed that he should depart from the UN military hospital in Kadugli, southern Kordofan on Friday.

Jamous said the Sudanese government has renewed his passport and gave him exit visa. Also, the Kenyan authorities delivered him the necessary visa to enter in Nairobi. The rebel figure said the UN needs just for 48 hours to arrange medical plane to transport him to Kenya and to obtain the necessary authorization for the private flight.

Jamous said the Sudanese president after his meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has directed to deliver the necessary authorization and to facilitate his departure to Kenya.

The senior rebel figure said that a great task is waiting him and expressed wishes to not disappoint the huge expectations that he feels on his shoulders.

Jamous needs a stomach biopsy which cannot be performed in the U.N. hospital. On Monday he left the hospital for the first time in more than 13 months to walk to the nearby U.N. headquarters and ask to leave Sudan for medical treatment.

Jamous, who mobilized a huge international support for his case, is considered consensus builder who could help peace efforts and unify fractured rebels.

The United Nations had moved him to a U.N. hospital near Darfur more than a year ago without informing Khartoum in order to protect him from Minni Minawi who had arrested him after the signing of Abuja accords. Sudan has called him a criminal and has said it would arrest him if he left U.N. care.

Rebel JEM requests AU and UN to condemn Darfur's attack

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) requested the African Union and the United Nations to clearly condemn the Sudanese army attack against its positions in Haskanita in northern Darfur.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the JEM spokesperson, told Sudan Tribune that the international community and particularly the AU and UN should denounce Khartoum military escalation in Darfur and to point out its clear responsibility in this new escalation of violence in the region.

Ahmed wondered why the African Union only expresses concern over Sudan's army breaches of the on going peace process "While it condemn our group easily every time we retaliate to Khartoum attacks."

The AU and the UN slammed the JEM at the end of last month when a joint JEM and SLA –unity faction force attacked a police base in the town of Wad Banda in Kordofan region on 29 August.

The rebel spokesperson also urged the EU, the UK and the US to denounce Khartoum aggression against their position. He further said that Sudan's government is hindering international community efforts to bring peace in Darfur and they should stand firm against that.

Khartoum signed a joint communiqué with the United Nations last week that included pledges to cease hostilities in Darfur, prepare for the arrival of a 26,000-strong joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission, and lay the foundations for peace talks in Libya on Oct. 27.

Ahmed, however reiterated JEM commitment to the on going peace process stressing that the joint mediation has to be in neutral party.

Also, he urged the mediators to meet the non signatory movements to discuss substantial procedural issues related to the forthcoming peace talks with Khartoum. He reminded that they agreed in Arusha meeting earlier last August to hold consultations on these issues.

The JEM leader; Khalil Ibrahim, told Radio France Internationale (RFI) on Tuesday that government attacks may endanger Darfur political process and the scheduled peace talks in Libya.

Yesterday the visiting British Foreign Office Minister for Africa, Mark Malloch Brown, has warned that the ongoing violence in Darfur region threatens to undermine peace talks planned for October between Khartoum and rebel groups.

Also, frustrations are growing among hold out rebel groups which consider that AU-UN mediation is more inclined to manage the Sudanese government. While the founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement, Abdel Wahid al-Nur rejects the whole ongoing process demanding deployment of international peacekeepers and the protection of Darfur civilians before political process.

Success uncertain for new Darfur peace talks

(Sudan Tribune) The United Nations and many African countries think the time is ripe to push Darfur's rebel groups to reach a peace deal with Sudan's government, and end four years of bloody conflict once and for all.

Both sides have reached a military stalemate, and months of intense international pressure have finally forced Khartoum to allow a new 26,000-strong joint U.N. and African Union peacekeeping force into Darfur.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon says new peace talks, set to start Oct. 27 in Libya, must be "a final settlement of this issue" Darfur's bloodletting has killed more than 200,000 people and uprooted 2.5 million Darfurians from their homes.

But Darfur has a history of peace talks _ their sheer numbers a testimony to their lack of success. And there are many obstacles in the way of ensuring a new set will bring lasting peace.

Displaced Darfuris seek seat at peace talks

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Displaced Darfuris in a dusty, squalid camp in Sudan's war-torn west have demanded a seat at peace talks between Khartoum and Darfur rebel groups, warning negotiations could fail without their participation.

Khartoum released a joint communique with the United Nations last week saying it will start talks with Darfur rebels on Oct. 27 in Libya to push for peace before a 26,000-strong U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force deploys to Darfur.

"There is no representative for us there. No one came and consulted us. If some of us were present at the talks it would help them succeed," Al-Bashir Al-Nagi, a local community leader, told Reuters.

He predicted the planned talks, as construed, are "not going to succeed. They will fail like the last ones."

Several Darfur sheikhs made similar pleas to visiting British Foreign Office Minister for Africa Mark Malloch Brown on Tuesday as they gathered in a small hut at the Otash displaced persons camp in south Darfur to air grievances.

Otash residents in South Darfur, which humanitarian workers say has seen more killing and displacement than other areas of Darfur this year, said they feel increasingly disconnected from the rebel leaders, several of whom live abroad, and they want their own representation at the talks.

Nour apologizes to take part in Juba meeting

(Al Rai AlAam) The SLM's Nur Wednesday officially apologized to take part in a meeting, arranged by the SPLM in Juba, to bring Darfur peace non-signatory movements together in the framework of the initiative of GOSS President Silva Kiir to solve Darfur crisis.

SLM's Nur Spokesperson Yahiya Bolad said Nur regretted to attend the meeting, despite his appreciation to the invitation in view of the strategic relation linking his movement and the SPLM. "Our stances are consistent and our message is obvious and any meeting is not feasible before the deployment of the UN-AU forces, disarmament of Janjaweed and expulsion of new settlers from Darfur", Bolad added.

He indicated that Nur told GOSS Vice-President Dr. Reiak Machar recently in Paris the his movement's vision was based on disarmament of the militias, deployment of the hybrid forces and individual and collective compensations.

Meanwhile,

SLM of Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi urges government to approach Darfurian field commanders to negotiate them a peace deal apart of those living in 5 starts hotel in European. The movements said field commanders are the real guarantees for sustainable peace.

Darfur rebel movements accuse the government of escalating attacks

(AlSahafa) Reuters- A senior Darfur rebel leader accused the government on Wednesday of trying to grab land ahead of October peace talks, and threatened to pull out of the negotiations unless attacks stopped.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim said the violence in the remote west would make it impossible for him to travel to negotiations with Khartoum, due to take place in Libya on Oct. 27.

"The government is escalating its attacks. There are daily attacks," he said. "They are killing civilians and animals and there are displaced people. They are trying to take as much land as possible before the peace talks and the arrival of peacekeeping troops."

A JEM field commander said government aircraft had bombed villages close to a rebel-held town in north Darfur on Tuesday, killing six civilians. A Sudanese army spokesman denied the army was escalating attacks and accused rebels of starting the fighting in Haskanita by ambushing government forces.

Ibrahim said if the fighting persisted it would be impossible to attend the talks, adding: "There is a war going on and we would have to fight for our survival." He said he was calling on the United Nations to step up its pressure on the Sudanese government to stop attacks in Darfur.

Another Darfur rebel group, the National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD) said it had repelled a government assault on its position in the village of Korbia, close to the north Darfur town of Kutum. No one was immediately available for comment from the Sudanese armed forces.

Khartoum signed a joint statement with the United Nations last week agreeing to end violence in Darfur, prepare for the peace talks and help deploy of 26,000 U.N. and African Union peacekeepers in Darfur.

JEM field commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr said six civilians were killed on Tuesday in bombing raids on villages near Haskanita, and a JEM statement asked aid groups to help bury 500 to 600 government soldiers it said were killed in a failed ground attack on Haskanita after an aerial bombardment.

The Sudanese army spokesman dismissed the rebel report on army casualties as an exaggeration. He said the army had been ambushed and was then forced to call in air support as backup.

Reports from rebel groups of the numbers of casualties and prisoners taken during that fighting have varied widely.

AU deploys 1800 troops in Darfur next Oct.

(AlSudani) The AU has announced it will deploy next Oct. two Nigerians and Rwandans battalions in Darfur to constitute along with the 3,000 elements representing the heavy support package and the present AU forces, an advance to the hybrid forces.

AU Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni said that expansion in the mission barracks and construction of new sites to accommodate the coming forces in seven camps were currently under way.

JEM accuses government of assassination attempt on its Leader

(AlSudani) The JEM accused Wednesday the government of attempting to assassinate its leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim and liquidate a number of his aides in the recent bombardment targeting Haskanita area.

JEM Spokesman Ahmed Hussein told *(AlSudani)* that his movement condemned the recent air attacks launched by the government, which he noted, aimed at liquidating JEM and SLM (Unity Faction) Leaderships, who were present during the air bombardment on Haskanita area. He called on AU denounce the air attacks and not to express anxiety over the attacks saying that the government dishonored its commitment to UN Chief Moon to halt air bombing.

GoSS

Lakes parliament speaker warns state's Government to cooperate

(Sudan Tribune) In Press conference held yesterday at Lakes State Legislative Assembly, the Speaker of Lakes State Legislative Assembly, Isaiah Alier Machinkon, warned the entire Executive to cooperate with Lakes State parliament.

Machinkon said that the Assembly is conferred the right to summon, move a vote of no confidence and dismiss any constitutional post holders and Senior Directors who do not pay adherence to the rule of law.

The Lakes speaker is alluding here to the silent crisis between the state parliament and the government since the impeachment vote by the assembly against the minister of finance, Philip Marol Mading on 22 August.

Despite the removal resolution by the parliament, the governor, Daniel Awet Akot, still maintains the minister in post. A high ranking official told Sudan Tribune that state government considers that the parliament has no authority to relieve a minister who is named by the president of southern Sudan government. So, the state parliament resolution is submitted to the president Salva Kiir Mayadrit for consideration.

350 Rizeigat join SPLA

(AlSahafa) SPLM stressed Wednesday that 350 from the leaderships of Rizeigat native administration leaderships in Al Deain locality have joined the SPLM

The SPLM's Secretary-General in the locality said a delegation of those who joined the SPLM would shortly arrive in Khartoum to meet SPLM's leader Silva Kiir and hold a press conference. Spokesman of the defectors Eisa Mohamed Eisa attributed their causes to join the SPLM for the failure of the NCP to redress settling of an estimated 1,000 families who lost their husbands in the war

SPLM refuses to re-open Khartoum North Office after police raid

(Sudan Tribune) While the situation is still undecided and amid circumstances for more confirmations, the SPLM considered the attacks launched against its offices in the capital as against the conventions and laws of power sharing of parties.

In a statement released yesterday, Ball Deng, SPLM Secretary in Khartoum, said they refused to reopen the SPLM office in Bahri and stipulated the presence of a proxy representative to set to know what had happened inside them.

Deng said the movement uses its role to practice political activity and that it has nothing to do with any firearms or any military equipments, hence making inspection a trespass of the norms and traditions of a party in power, saying the movement office in Bahri was raided destroyed and closed down by the police.

He added that upon meeting with the authorities concerned they demanded that the opening of the office should be under the supervision of the committee represented in the proxy to examine the properties.

On its part, the police have confirmed yesterday that it would continue its campaign to seize all unlicensed firearms inside the capital, referring to its success in implementing the plan to make the capital an arms-free city.

MP says ex-Minister invested loot in Kenya

(The Citizen) Former Finance Minister Arthur Akuien's woes deepened yesterday with a lawmaker saying the minister invested part of the Government of Southern Sudan money into bank accounts abroad.

The Chairperson of Parliament's Specialized Committee of Economic Development and Finance in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly told law makers that the

money Arthur Akuien Chole, World Health Organization was sacked by First VP Kiir over a botched car deal, invested was from public funds.

It was banked into two banks in Nairobi. The Government of South Sudan was not notified. Consequently, no one in the government has received the interest on the money, according to the lawmaker.

Besieged SPLA platoon arrives Juba

(*Juba Post*) Juba (31 Sep)-A group of 61 SPLM besieged by Sudan Armed Forces in AL-Muglad have been allowed passage last Saturday September 8th and will arrive Juba on Thursday.

According to SPLA Spokesman General Kuol Deim Kuol, the platoon of the SPLA soldiers led by the SPLA Director of Organization, Major General Ayuen Alier Jongroor, and SPLA director of Intelligence Brig.

General Malual Majak plus three other senior army officials were sent to South Kordofan and Southern Darfur in order to organize the Miseriya militia men who have chosen to join the SPLA.

The platoon who was intercepted by SAF was on its way to South to ensure that all SPLA forces are relocated south of the 1.1.1956 line as agreed in the CPA. "These absorbed militia groups are led by Brig.

Hassan Humid in Dibab Abu Matarig respectively, and they are considered other Armed Groups(OAGs)that have opted to join the SPLA; and the decision of the political ceasefire committee is that they relocate South of the 1.1.1956 line border line.

"When the contingent of Brig. Hassan Hamid along with the SPLA officers were returning from Abu Matarig to Dibab, over 1000 Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers with 4 tanks surrounded them and the stand off lasted for nearly three days at Al-Muglad" reports the SPLA spokesman.

"Sudan Armed Forces soldiers; asked our forces to hand over their arms and uniforms but our forces refused. We told them we did not want to be humiliated" he adds.

WRAPUP 3-Darfur rebel: Sudan escalating attacks before talks

(*Reuters*) A senior Darfur rebel leader accused the Sudanese government on Wednesday of trying to grab land ahead of October peace talks, and threatened to pull out of the negotiations unless attacks stopped.

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