

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 30 September 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN-AU hybrid force commander in Darfur escapes assassination attempt

(Sudan Tribune)-Nigerian Army General Martin Luther Agwai, commander of the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur, Sudan escaped an assassination attempt in his home state of Kaduna according to press reports.

Agwai's convoy consisting of two vehicles was attacked by eight gunmen who opened fire . Agwai's brother was in the first jeep but was left unharmed.

Agwai's jeep rushed away from the scene which was close to his sister's house he was visiting.

Agwai's brother in law told the local Leadership newspaper that "the assassins assumed General Agwai was in one of the jeeps, so they just opened fire on the one heading to the gate of the [his] house".

Nigerian Army Spokesman, Col. USA Giwa-Amu, said that Agwai was unhurt in the attack. Nigerian troops combed the area looking for the assassins.

However some sources said that the attack was merely armed robbery. There was no independent confirmation of that.

The former Chief of staff was appointed last August to lead the biggest peacekeeping operation in the world with 20,000 troops and 6,000 police under his command.

Ex-UN aid official says Darfur force must fight

(Sudan Tribune) — United Nations and African Union peacekeepers going to Sudan's Darfur region must be ready to fight to protect civilians from armed militias, former U.N. relief coordinator Jan Egeland said on Friday.

A 26,000-strong hybrid U.N. and AU force is due to deploy shortly to the troubled region of western Sudan, where experts say about 200,000 people have been killed in recent years since mainly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the government.

The world's largest humanitarian operation has been providing food and shelter, but a much smaller AU force has been unable to halt the slaughter.

New peace talks are planned for October but violence has become so serious that some aid groups have reduced their operations or left altogether.

"There is no peace to keep and that is why the mandate has to be to build peace locally and robustly defend civilians," Egeland told Reuters in the Oslo headquarters of the foreign policy think tank he now heads.

"That means that, when the humanitarians or the refugees themselves say they are threatened, the force has to deploy protectively and defend. And fight, if necessary."

The former U.N. undersecretary-general, who still advises U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon on peace building, said simply distributing aid in Darfur had saved hundreds of thousands of lives, but was not enough.

"We have let the situation disintegrate," he said. "For me, it is the safe areas of Bosnia all over again. We give people food and blankets but then we say they can be massacred at night."

The Sudanese government accuses the West of exaggerating the scale of the crisis, saying that 9,000 people have died. Critics accuse the government of arming and backing the Janjaweed militia, who are accused of some of the worst atrocities.

Egeland said he did not believe the Janjaweed militia or other armed groups would fight hard if properly challenged.

"My view is that these people are cowards," he said. "Every time they are challenged they do not engage. I do not foresee battles. What they have done is specialise in attacks on innocent civilians. They rape women and torch villages."

The infantry for the force will be entirely African but U.N. officials say the AU is blocking troop contributions from Western countries, such as Norwegian and Swedish combat engineers, but Egeland said he believed it would eventually be accepted.

In the short term, a proactive approach by the peacekeepers might incite retaliation against the unarmed humanitarian workers, he said, but overall it would improve security in the long run particularly for the aid operation.

"There are examples for incidents in Congo where anger at the peacekeepers was taken out on the easy target, which was the humanitarians," he said.

"It is a risk that the security situation as it is at the moment cannot continue. In the short term, it may reduce security but in the long term it will help."

Overall, he said U.N. peacekeeping missions in the past 10 years had produced impressive results in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and elsewhere. In contrast, unilateral U.S.-led interventions in places such as Iraq had proved deeply divisive.

Crisis between UN-AU on hybrid force nationality

Differences on the nationalities of the hybrid forces, which are supposed to be deployed in Darfur, have escalated between Sudan and African Union, on one hand and the UN and international community on the other hand.

On its part, Sudan insisted on the African nature of the forces, stressing that implementation of Resolution No. 1769 would not tolerate bargaining in its interpretation.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim told (Al-Sahafa daily) that the deployment of UN-AU forces would be delayed due to the differences over the forces nationalities, saying that the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations was rejecting proposals of the African forces.

Ambassador Abdul Halim explained that Dr. Lam Akol then met with the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie GuZhenno, and discussed with him the progress being made in the implementation of the Hybrid Operation. In this connection, the Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed the necessity to stick to the previous agreements between Sudan on one side and the UN and the African Union on the other side, including deployment of only African force in Darfur as well as pre-arranging with the Sudanese Government with respect to the date of the implementation of the Hybrid Operation. Ambassador Abdul Halim explained that deployment of the hybrid force will begin early next year but Nigeria and Rwanda will send two battalions in the coming October.

Concerning the Darfur issue and the coming negotiations in Tripoli between the government and the non-signatory movements of Abuja agreement, the Ambassador said the meeting underlined the importance of involvement of all the factions in Darfur considering that the negotiations would be final and decisive.

Meanwhile, a coordination meeting of the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on the sidelines of the current session of the General Assembly in New York recommended adherence to the sending of forces to Darfur from the African continent only as well as supporting the peace process in Darfur.

At a different level, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, addressed the ministerial meeting of the G77, highlighting Sudan's points of view with respect to the various issues of Development. The Minister further chaired Sudan's delegation in the meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Somalia.

UNSRSG to Sudan Asharaf Quazi meets Sudan Ambassador to New York

Sudan Permanent Representative to UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim met the newly-appointed SRSG to Sudan Asharaf Qazi, which was considered as the first encounter by a senior Sudanese official with Qazi since his nomination earlier this month.

The Ambassador told (Al Rai Alam) that Qazi expressed his pleasure to work in Sudan hoping to perform his duty accurately. Abdulhalim said that Qazi would assume officially his assignment as SRSG to Sudan in the third week of next Oct. following his participation in the meeting of the UN Permanent Envoys in Geneva.

UN extends mandate of experts monitoring Darfur arms embargo

News. (UN News)

The Security Council yesterday decided to extend the mandate of the panel of experts set up to monitor an arms embargo in the strife-torn Darfur region of Sudan.

The 15-member body unanimously adopted a resolution to lengthen until 15 October 2008 the mandate of the group, which was established in March 2005 to help monitor the implementation of the arms embargo imposed by Council resolutions, and inform the sanctions committee about individuals who impede the peace process, violate international law or are responsible for offensive military overflights.

The panel was also tasked with monitoring the implementation of targeted individual financial and travel sanctions, and developing new recommendations to present to the Council.

Today's resolution requested that the panel coordinate its activities with the UN-African Union (AU) hybrid peacekeeping force – to be known as UNAMID – scheduled to take over from the existing AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) by the end of this year. At full deployment, UNAMID will be the world's largest peacekeeping operation, with some 26,000 troops and police officers.

Also today, Council members were briefed by the chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, who underscored the importance of the ties between his organization and the UN.

He pointed out that the OSCE and the UN work together in such areas as conflict prevention, crisis management, reconstruction, the fight against terrorism, protection of minorities and environmental security.

“The United Nations and the OSCE are linked by their determination to strengthen a rules-based international order based on the respect for human rights and on cooperation on matters pertaining to security among States,” Mr. Moratinos noted.

Regarding Kosovo, he said that the OSCE has remained neutral regarding the future status of the Serbian province which has been administered by the UN since 1999.

“Impartiality, however, does not mean being non-committal,” he stated. Despite the fact that the OSCE is not directly participating in the status negotiations, it does contribute in the field “in order to create necessary conditions for the implementation” of the coming settlement.

He also lauded the UN Alliance of Civilizations – created to bridge the divide between Islam and the West – as a “good instrument for managing and addressing diversity in the areas of youth, education, migration and the media,” as the OSCE is also dedicated to promoting “diverse and pluralistic societies” as part of its commitment to bolster democracy in all societies and States.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Donors allocate \$22 mln for Sudan census

News. (ST)

Director-General of the Central Statistics Bureau Awad Haj Ali, announced the donors' commitment toward the success of the Population census by putting up 22 million US dollars for the project.

He further said that the Government of National Unity has allocated 12.5 million US dollars, out of 30 Million US dollars, adding that the remaining sum - 17. 55 million US dollars- will be disbursed by the end of October.

Ali underscored that donors support is a technical support related to the training of census counters and supervisors as well as making available vehicles, equipment, calculating machines besides printing of census forms and guidelines books for the supervisors, observers and the census counters.

The Sudanese responsible indicated that work in the Census Services Centers all over the Sudan will be completed by the end of October in preparation for the national population census, due to be conducted in February 2008.

SPLA sets timetable for redeploying its troops to South of 1956 borders,

AlSudani-- The SPLA has announced its opposition to the truce which SAF has given to the Miseriya and Rizaigat, who joined SPLA in Muglad, Dibab and Abu Matarig, to move south of 1956 borders. SPLA Deputy Chief of staff Maj Gen Bior Ajang said the SPLA has submitted a memo to the Ceasefire Political Committee (CPC). The memo includes a timetable for redeploying these troops from Dibab and Abu Matarig. Ajang explained that an assessment team from SPLA will visit Dibab on 28 December to redeploy the troops to the south. The process will begin on 7 January by redeploying the first batch of 1,250 troops from Dibab while the second group (2,500) will be redeployed on 25 January. Redeployment from Abu Matarig in South Darfur to the South will take place on 30 January and 15 February.

Kiir calls for dialogue with NCP under UN, IGAD AND SU

First Vice-President Silva Kiir has drawn the attention of the US Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natasios on the necessity of bringing together the NCP partners under the international community auspices represented in the UN, IGAD and the US to sit for solving pending issues in the CPA.

GOSS Affairs Minister Luca Biong told (*AlSahafa* daily) that the Kiir and Natasios held a protracted meeting focusing on Abyie dispute and borders demarcation. He pointed out that GOSS would take the initiative of the British experts Douglas Johnson, in which he presented technical information about the South and North borders, as a basis for the solution between the two sides.

Government sends military reinforcements to Alkoma area, North Darfur

AlSahafa-- The government has increased its military reinforcements in the bridge of Alkoma locality, which is considered a life-line for Darfur three states, following the ambush launched by JEM on a convoy heading to North Darfur.

Commissioner of Alkoma Locality Mohamed Suleiman Rabih accused JEM of carrying the attack on the convoy which left 25 persons between dead and wounded.

Malaysian firm gets \$211 mln contract for Sudan oilfield expansion

(Sudan Tribune) — Malaysian builder and engineer Ranhill (RANH.KL) has won contracts worth 720 million ringgit (\$210.8 million) for oilfield expansion and upgrades from Sudan's Petrodar Operating Co, Ranhill said on Thursday.

Petrodar, which operates Sudan's Dar Blend field, is a consortium comprising China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) with a 41 percent stake, Malaysia's Petronas [PETR.UL] with 40 percent, and state oil firm Sudapet with 8 percent.

China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. (Sinopec) (600028.SS: Quote, Profile, Research) holds 6 percent of Petrodar, while Al Thani Corp., a private company incorporated in the United Arab Emirates, owns 5 percent.

Ranhill said its international unit was part of a consortium that won the contract for the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning work for PetroDar's Al-Jabalayn and Palouge processing facilities.

The work involves boosting the liquid handling capacity and water injection facilities at Palouge, and increasing crude processing facilities to 300,000 barrels a day at Al-Jabalayn, the company said in a statement.

Merowe Dam Construction Chairman Criticizes Government for failing to honour agreement

Sudan Tribune--The head of the council of citizens aggrieved by Merowe Dam Construction and chairman of the Manaseer executive committee, Maj Gen (RTD) Osman Sahan criticized the government and dam implementation unit for failing to honour agreements and recognize the legitimacy of citizen's committees. Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Sahan added that the overwhelming majority of Manaseer do not recognize the 1999 survey of population and other statistics based on which estimates for compensation have been made. The council said Sahan is calling for restraint among citizens even as government forces get ready to evict them of the area. The Manaseer University and higher institute students association also issued a statement condemning the government's attempt to force citizens to accept unfair compensation adding that the association will continue following up the issue.

33 killed in clashes between Miseriya and SPLM

Alintibaha—According to media reports 33 people have been killed yesterday in clashes between the Miseriya and SPLA in Alsounoot area of Lagawa Locality (South Kordofan). The Nazir of the Miseriya AlHiraika Izzeldin confirmed the incident and said the police has contained the situation.

No Official Notification on Excluding South Sudan from US Sanctions, Official News. SV

The Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the reported lifting of American sanctions on South Sudan as the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, Ali al-Sadig stated that the sanctions should have been lifted from the whole of Sudan according to the recent American pledges. He indicated that to date they have not received any official intimation regarding the lifting of American sanctions on southern Sudan.

Al-Sadig said that there is presently no difference between Sudan and the UN over the hybrid operation, citing the statements of the AU chief, Alpha Omar Konare, at the New York meetings and the AU commitment to the terms of reference agreed upon.

"Some countries interpret the provisions pursuant to their own interests so as to enforce their own agendas, though now the African presence in the hybrid operation is generally accepted," Al-Sadig said.

Meanwhile, Sudan's envoy to the UN, Ambassador Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Halim, stated that the deployment of the African peacekeepers in Darfur will be delayed because of a dispute over the nationalities of the troops, pointing out that UN peacekeeping operation administration has previously rejected proposals from several countries wishing to send troops to Darfur. He added that the commander of the UN peacekeeping forces last week turned down a proposal from Egypt to deploy 3,000 troops in Darfur arguing that they do not conform to international standards for peacekeeping operations. He said that, during his talks with the UNSG Ban Ki-moon, the Foreign Minister Lam Akol has stressed the need for the UN to accept the participation of a number of African troops rejected for their non-conformity to international standards on the basis of the spirit of Resolution 1769 and the Addis Ababa terms of reference.

To that effect, US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, continues his visit to Sudan for the purpose of surveying progress of peace in Darfur and implementation of the Naivasha agreement.

GoSS

Juba to develop new map for southern Sudan territory

(Sudan Tribune)_The Government of Southern Sudan has resolved to develop a new working map for its territory. The working map will include the disputed territories, which were incorrectly annexed to northern Sudan in the current perceived 1956 North-South boundary.

The decision was taken in a Council of Ministers meeting held on Wednesday, Juba, under the chairmanship of the Government of Southern Sudan's President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, who also holds the post of the First Vice Presidency in the Government of National Unity.

The Council further resolved that the new map should also contain the original local names of rivers, villages, towns, etc, to replace some names, which are alien to the local population in Southern Sudan.

The resolution is backed up by an initial resolution passed early this year by the Governors of the ten Southern Sudan states in their 'Governors Forum' chaired by the Vice President, Riek Machar Teny. That resolution also called for a review of the map of Southern Sudan, including its internal States and Counties boundaries.

This working map, which may take less than a month to come out and become ready for use, will serve as an interim and comprehensive map for Southern Sudan territory, pending the completion of the work of demarcation of the boundary by the established North-South Boundary Commission.

The work of this Commission, which was established by the Presidency of the Government of National Unity, is set to be completed by the first quarter of 2008.

In a press statement shortly after the Council of Ministers passed the resolution, Samson Kwaje, the Government Spokesperson and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said the Council also resolved to strengthen the membership of the Government of Southern Sudan's component of the committee on the boundary commission. He added that the committee will also be strengthened financially so that it is able to speed up its work to meet its deadline.

Earlier this month, a British expert, Douglas H. Johnson, presented a public lecture on North-South boundaries in Juba after conducting an extensive research dating back to maps and descriptions of the original North-South boundary during the British colonial period.

Johnson was requested by the Presidency of the Government of Southern Sudan to conduct the research and present its findings to the Government.

His findings indicated that this incorrect North-South boundary of 1956 has taken some parts of Southern Sudan to Northern Sudan. The report indicated that the most contentious territories are in Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states.

The demarcation of the North-South boundary is key to implementation of several protocols in the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It has great bearing on redeployment of forces, wealth sharing, population census, general elections and the 2011 referendum.

South Sudan movement senior official says US to exclude South from embargo*Text of report by London-based newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat website on 28 September*

[Report by Talhah Jibril in Washington: "Washington Decides to Lift Embargo on Southern Sudan, and Its Companies Will Be Granted Licenses to Do Business"]

A prominent southern official has said that Washington has decided to exclude southern Sudan from the US embargo imposed on the country. Pagan Amum, secretary general of the ruling Sudan People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] in the south, told Al-Sharq al-Awsat that this decision was made following talks held by a southern delegation with US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. He noted that the embargo will be lifted immediately and the Treasury Department will issue licenses for US companies to do business in the south. He stressed that these licenses will be issued on Thursday (yesterday). He added: "I affirm to you that the embargo has been lifted officially."

It was not possible to obtain clarifications from the Treasury Department about this step, while a source at the US State Department told Al-Sharq al-Awsat: "It is possible to obtain information in this respect from the Treasury Department."

Amum said that he and his accompanying delegation, including the finance minister in the southern government and the deputy director of the Central Bank, have discussed the issue of increasing US aid to the south and also participating in the reconstruction of the region. Amum said that they also discussed the lifting of the embargo imposed on other parts of the country. He noted that these sanctions are in fact against the National Congress Party (the ruling party in Khartoum). He pointed to the cancellation of the sanctions that is linked to the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement between the north and south and also to the situation in Darfur. He added: "Our focus is on improving relations between Sudan and the United States."

During the visit made by Al-Sammani al-Wasilah, minister of state at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, to the US capital in late August, Washington had promised Khartoum to lift the embargo with the beginning of the deployment of the hybrid forces in Darfur.

Amum met with Andrew Natsios, US envoy to Sudan, before his travel to Khartoum. He also met with officials at the State Department. On Monday, he is scheduled to meet with Jendayi Frazer, assistant secretary of state for African affairs. He also met in New York with the deputy UN secretary general and the assistant to the secretary general for political affairs.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the command of the Sudan People's Liberation Army held talks at the Pentagon. The delegation includes the chief of staff and his deputy.

Amum avoided speaking about reports that during his talks in Washington, he discussed the situation following the referendum, which is supposed to be held in October 2011 in the south, and the possibility of its separation. He, however, said: The issues that top our agenda during the Washington meetings are implementing the comprehensive peace agreement, ensuring the holding of the referendum, and reconstructing southern Sudan economically. He said that the date of the referendum is still far off. He, however, said: "The referendum will either be in favour of unity on new foundations or separation . . . All the current circumstances make the southerners think about separation because they are still treated like second-class citizens, since the issue has to do with a regime and a mentality. The thing that pushes the southerners towards separation is their feeling that they are not respected," as he put it.

He stressed the need to work for ending the marginalization [of southerners]. He added: "Even in the event of separation, the two countries should be bound by strong ties." He said that separation only means that "you have new borders, pay customs duties, and travel by passports."

On the fate of the northerners who live in the south and the southerners who live in the north, Amum said: "The Sudanese will choose the country they want. Their presence on the two sides [of the border] will create ties of cooperation between them." He, however, added: "If separation takes place, we should think about the

arrangements and the relations between the two sides because the south will not move to another place, but will be a neighbour of the north." He went on: "Before this, there are the elections, which are very important. In fact, they are more important than the referendum, and there is a chance for Sudan to remain united if the Sudanese change their policies."

In reply to a question about Washington's position on the issue of separation, Amum said: "The position of the United States is to encourage a united Sudan and, at the same time, they will respect the position to be decided by the people of the south through the referendum."

Amum criticized the SPLM's main partner in the government (the National Congress Party). In this respect, he said: "There are many problems in implementing the comprehensive peace agreement, including the violation of the agreement by the National Congress Party, which disavows its commitments. There is also the problem of Abyei (an oil-rich region over which the two sides are locked in a dispute), since we have signed a protocol, under which a joint team was formed. When the team reached results, they [leaders of the National Congress Party] rejected them."

On the question of redeploying the army in Sudan and withdrawing its units to the north, Amum said: "The National Congress Party has decided to keep its forces in the oil regions and in the A'ali al-Nil [Upper Nile]. It has kept a large number of forces there. This is not a good sign and it violates the peace agreement." Khartoum says that it has withdrawn more than 80 per cent [of its forces] from the south towards the north.

Amum said: "The National Congress Party currently follows a dictatorial style. Opposition members have been arrested, the censorship of newspapers has returned, and major violations are taking place."

Source: Al-Sharq al-Awsat website, London, in Arabic 28 Sep 07

BBC Monitoring

Sudanese from southern Equatoria state hail new political group

Text of report by pro-government Sudanese Media Centre website on 27 September

[Text of report by SMC www on 27 Sep]

Equatorians in southern Sudan support the formation of the Democratic Front

Khartoum, 27 Sep (SMC) - Representatives of the southern equatorial tribes abroad expressed their support for the formation of the Democratic Front for South Sudan as it is the only party that could liberalize southerners from extreme poverty and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) corruption according to a statement issued in this regard.

The statement signed by Dr Luka Audiong, president of the equatorial professionals in Europe and Victor Charles Adiba, the official spokesman for international equatorial solidarity, called on all equatorians in the world to support the Democratic

Front and added that all the equatorians should know that the only way to free them from the SPLM is to vote against their candidates in the coming elections.

The Democratic Front is an alliance between the South Sudan Defence Forces, the democratic forum for southern Sudan and a number of forces, which announced their dissolution and integration into a single party.

Source: Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 0000 gmt 27 Sep 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEauwaf 290907/mm

Darfur

Darfur IDPs organize demonstrations in presence of Natasios, reject sanctions on rebel movements

AlAyam—A number of IDPs in camps have yesterday organized demonstrations and asked the US envoy Andrew Natasios to work for speeding up deployment of international troops to protect the IDPs. The IDPs are against the US intentions to impose sanctions against the DPA non-signatories.

The IDPs spokesperson, Abo Shartai, said the IDPS organized demonstrations in four camps yesterday in Zalingay.

Finland offers civilian police for Darfur

Alsudani-- Finland has offered to the UN to send 12 civilian police officers to the hybrid operation in Darfur. Finland has already got 93 civilian experts in Darfur contributing to crisis management in the region.

US\$ 13.5 billion in plan of Darfur reconstruction fund for seven years

Alsudani-- Federal Minister of Finance and Head of committee supervising the Darfur reconstruction fund pledged to provide US\$ 700 million for the fund for 2006-2008. The Minister has also pledged to support the fund's strategic plan which requires US\$ 13.5 billion for the period 2008-2015.

Natasios calls for seizing golden opportunity of Tripoli talks

AlSudani—The US envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natasios, urged the Sudanese government and parties to the conflict in Darfur to benefit from the rare, golden opportunity of Tripoli talks to achieve peace in the region. Natasios called on the people of Darfur, especially the Arab tribes to participate in the negotiations.

Indonesia preparing to send small police team to Darfur

News. (AFP) –

Indonesia is preparing to send a small police contingent to a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region, the national police spokesman said Friday.

"Preparation is underway. An advance team with seven personnel will leave as soon as their documents are completed. Another seven personnel will join them soon afterwards," spokesman Sisno Adiwino told reporters.

Indonesia's foreign minister said in August that the country could contribute up to 150 police personnel, but Adiwino said only 14 had so far been requested to join the force.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution mandating a 26,000-strong force for Darfur last month.

Big losses as a result of attacks by militias on Adila

Rai AlShaab—The areas of Jabarona, Om Sareer, Abu Kanjari and Hamoda (north-east Adila, east of Abu Karnika) in South Darfur have been attacked by armed militias who are believed to be janjaweed.

Sudan, UN reportedly differ over composition of Darfur hybrid force

Text of report by state-owned Sudanese radio on 29 September

Sudan has warned that the hybrid operation could be hampered due to differences with the UN over the nationalities of its forces. Sudan's permanent ambassador to the UN, Abd-al-Mahmud Abd-al-Halim, said that the UN administration of the peacekeeping force had rejected a number of offers from African countries willing to send troops to the region.

At the same time, during a meeting in New York, Foreign Minister Dr Lam Akol informed the UN Secretary-General, Ban ki-moon, that it was important for the UN to reassess its stance opposing the participation of a number of African troops on the pretext that they did not meet international criteria.

Source: Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 29 Sep 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 290907 /ak-sm

UN deputy envoy to Sudan, Northern Darfur governor discuss peace in region

Text of report by state-owned Sudanese radio on 29 September

Northern Darfur State Governor Uthman Muhammad Yusuf Kibir, during a meeting held yesterday in Al-Fashir with the deputy UN special envoy to Sudan Amira Haq, who is also in charge of [UN] humanitarian affairs, has hailed efforts being carried out by the UN in supporting the peace process and stability in Darfur.

For her part, Haq asserted UN full support to the ongoing efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability in the region.

Source: Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 29 Sep 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 290907 /ak-sm

JEM leader sacks veteran rebel over contacts with Sudanese government

(Sudan Tribune) — The leader of Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Khalil Ibrahim, has named a new secretary for Western sector to replace a veteran rebel who was sacked from his position on September 26.

In a decree issued today the JEM president appointed, Ahmed Adam Bakheit, as Secretary for Western Sector of the rebel movement. Bakheit replaces Bahar Idriss Abu Garda who had unauthorized meetings with government officials, reliable sources said.

"Abu Garda is bitter since the removal of the former JEM chief commander, Abdalla Banda, on July 1."

He started making some contacts with the Sudanese government and also approached the AU for a separate audience in connection with Banda who attacked JEM forces but had to retreat, Sudan Tribune has learnt.

Last week, Bahr appeared at Khor Mareesa near el-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur, and he was collected to el-Fashir for a meeting with the governor Osman Kibir, security forces and representatives of Minni Minnawi, the senior aide of the Sudanese president.

After his relieve, Abdalla Banda created a new splinter faction called "JEM – Eastern Command". He announced on July 30 the removal of Khail Ibrahim from JEM leadership, and demanded to participate in Arusha meeting.

Darfur rebels accuse Khartoum of trying to divide their ranks, and mediators have described government attempts to negotiate deals with individual commanders as "unhelpful" as rebels worked to reach a common platform ahead of peace talks.

Consultations underway regarding visit to Sudan by French delegation:

According to Al Rai Al A'm daily informed sources disclosed that arrangements and consultations over a visit by a high level French delegation to Sudan are underway between the Sudanese and French governments.

The sources said the visit is aimed at discussing the French role in the peace process and the attempts by Paris to convince SLM/A Abdul Wahid Nour to participate in the peace negotiations. The same sources were quoted as saying that Paris is seeking to absolve itself of Abdul Wahid's intransigence, in addition to informing GoS of the efforts it is making to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Jendayi Frazer warns Abdul Wahid Nour of isolation:

In a related development, the US Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer in an interview with *Alsharaq Alawsat daily* severely criticized SLM/A Nour, adding that Nour should behave like a leader if he wants others to recognize him. Frazer said the US Administration urges Abdul Wahid to participate in the Tripoli talks, but according to her if he does not do this he would be completely isolating himself from the peace process.

Egypt quashes rumors that UN has rejected its troop contribution:

Al Khartoum daily said Egypt has denied rumors that the UN has rejected its troop contribution to the hybrid operation. The Egyptian Foreign Minister reportedly stated that the UN is still in the process of force formation, adding that even the UNSG has no right to reject Egyptian troops because they will be recruited along the lines decided on internationally.

In a related development, *Al Sudani daily reported* that Finland has offered to contribute 12 CivPol to the hybrid operation.

SLM/A Abdul Shafie faction hints at participation in Tripoli talks:

On the other hand, in what *Al Wan daily described* as a surprise move, Abdul Shafie SLM/A faction has hinted at participation in the Tripoli talks after receiving a positive response to the memos it had sent to AU Commission Chairperson and the UNSG.

The faction leader Abdul Shafie said the memos stressed the necessity of the deployment of an international force for protection of civilians, disarming the Janjawid and the equitable distribution of wealth and power. He denied the existence of any contacts with Abdul Wahid Nour.

Sharp differences reported within JEM:

Meanwhile, Al Wan daily reported that sharp differences erupted between supporters of JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim and those of the former commander of JEM forces Abdullah Banda. According to the paper the clashes between the two sides took place 13 kilometers north-east of Haskanita with both sides suffering heavy casualties and that Dr. Khalil narrowly escaped death