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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Unknown assailants attack AU helicopter in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) An African Union helicopter was fired upon by unidentified assailants while flying over Darfur, a statement by the AU ceasefire commission said Sunday.

The helicopter was carrying the Deputy Force Commander from Zalingei in West Darfur to Al-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. The helicopter was shot at the Kurni general area. “Five bullets holes were seen on the body of the helicopter, on landing.” The ceasefire commission said in a press statement.

This was the first time an AU helicopter had been hit.

The AU spokesperson Nourredine Mezni said in a separate statement to the AP that AU force commander Maj. Gen. Luke Aprezi chaired a meeting early Sunday and ordered an investigation into the incident to determine who was responsible.

Full text of the AMIS statement attached separately

Sudan’s oil money should be under UN control – Darfur rebels

(*SudanTribune.com*) A Darfur rebel said that Sudan’s oil money should be under the control of the UN to finance humanitarian operations, reconstruction and development.

In a meeting held in Abéché near the border with the visiting UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, the rebel Justice and Equality said that “Sudan is too rich to allow its people to be fed by the international community.

The UN should take control over Sudan’s oil revenue and redirect it for feeding, reconstruction and development of the Sudan.” The rebel group explained that Khartoum uses oil revenue to kills its own people.

In a meeting attended by forty commanders, JEM reaffirmed that no military solution for the war in Darfur because Darfur problem is a political one. “Inclusive negotiations are the only way out of the current stalemate.”

JEM’s further pledged its full cooperation to facilitate flow of humanitarian works in Darfur and indicated its willingness to use, and if necessary sacrifice lives of its troops, for the purpose.

The rebel group “registered its extreme reservation against Salim Ahmed Salim but singled its readiness for involvement of the AU with the UN in the coming round of Talks,” a JEM press release said.

JEM also affirmed Eliasson's emphasis on the unity of the Movements before the next round of talks. "As stated, JEM is now focussed on this issue with some limited success already been achieved" the rebels said.

The UN envoy told the rebels that the UN forces cannot proceed under Resolution 1706. A new UN Security Council resolution may be needed after peace is achieved in Darfur, the statement said [*click on the link for the full text* [Sudan's oil money should be under UN control – Darfur rebels](#)].

Sudanese daily reports foreign NGOs handing out condoms in camps

(Akhir Lahza via BBC Monitoring) Two foreign NGOs working in the humanitarian field in Darfur have committed new violations by distributing medical commodities in internally displaced persons' camps without notifying or consulting the government.

Akhir Lahzah's sources who are closely linked to humanitarian affairs confirmed that the two organizations recently distributed large quantities of condoms to reduce Aids infections in the camps.

The government sources said the organizations are continuing to distribute these to encourage 'safe sex' and to intensify the fierce attack against the customs of the people of Darfur.

The sources indicated that the organizations had neglected their main duty of providing urgent humanitarian assistance.

The sources demanded strict measures be taken against the two organizations saying they considered their work a clear breach of the technical agreement signed between working organizations and the competent authorities.

The sources further criticized the role of national organizations working in Darfur who are 48 as opposed to 500 foreign organizations.

Other Headlines:

- ❖ [850, 000 children are enrolled in south Sudan schools - UN](#)
- ❖ [UN rights council sets up Darfur monitoring group](#)
- ❖ [UN rights body keeps pressure on Sudan over Darfur](#)

The Transition Debate

US envoy for Sudan to meet UN Secretary General

(SudanTribune.com) The U.S. special envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios will hold a meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday, Sudan Tribune has learned. The meeting will focus on the nature of what appeared to be concessions made by Sudan on the AU-UN hybrid force.

The announcement was met with scepticism from the US administration. Last month al-Bashir has sent a letter to the UN Secretary General outlining numerous objections to phase two of the AU-UN hybrid force which was considered as backtracking by Sudan on the Addis Ababa communiqué it has signed.

Bashir's letter prompted the US to decide to proceed with a financial sanctions package as part of 'Plan B' and was due to announce its details within the course of the week [*click on the link for the full text* [US envoy for Sudan to meet UN Secretary General](#)].

Sudan ready to reconsider UN resolution 1706 - official

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudan has agreed to review the overall package the United Nations has proposed for easing the violence in Darfur, the minister of state for foreign affairs said on Friday.

Ali Karti said an agreement announced at an Arab summit in Saudi Arabia* marked "progress" because Sudan was now open to discussion on U.N. Security Council resolution 1706 authorising the deployment of U.N. troops to the troubled Darfur region, where African Union (AU) troops have had little impact.

"This is a breakthrough because we have agreed to sit down and discuss the mandates in 1706," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The resolution calls for 22,500 U.N. troops and police officers to support the 7,000-member AU force in Sudan [*click on the link for the full text* [Sudan ready to reconsider UN resolution 1706 - official](#)].

** Please refer to an unofficial translation of the full text of the Riyadh Statement in separate attachment*

Tripartite mechanism to meet next week

(*Rai AlShaab*) The tripartite mechanism of the UN, African Union and the Sudan government meets next week to discuss outstanding issues on the UN support package to the AMIS in Darfur as per the agreement recently reached at a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, reveals Sudan's Representative to the UN.

The Sudanese diplomat said on the other hand that envoy Jan Eliasson will brief the Security Council mid this month on progress in the Sudan peace process.

GoNU

Oil revenue figures read at \$177.2 million

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Total revenue reaped from Sudan's oil industry for the month of February amounted to \$177.2 million of which the GoNU and the GoSS have a \$116.2 million and

\$60.7 million stakes respectively, reports Undersecretary Al-Sheikh Mohamed of the Ministry of Finance.

The figures were revealed yesterday in a joint meeting between the GoNU and the GoSS in which the two governments reviewed total production and local consumption of oil. Printing of the new currency currently in circulation was also funded from oil revenue as recommended by the Joint Assessment Mission, says the Undersecretary.

Representatives of the SPLM concurred with the figures cited.

States' Assembly to evaluate implementation of the peace agreements

(Rai AlShaab) The States' Assembly has resolved to table for an evaluation the CPA, DPA and ESPA and deliberate on progress and challenges to implementation of the three agreements.

The Assembly will also deliberate on the President's address before the opening of parliament and will subject the Native Administration and Local Government bills for deliberation ahead of an endorsement.

Police says legislation of regional state police threatens national security

(AlSahafa) The Ministry of Interior has warned against any regional police laws issued before the federal police statute.

A statement issued by the federal police said yesterday that that any form of police legislature at all levels must be done in coordination with the federal laws which are yet to be endorsed in order to avoid non-conformity which may have negative effects on national security in the country.

Sudanese government warns US over military support to ex-rebels

(AlMashaheer; AlSahafa, via BBC Monitoring) With reference to media reports indicating that the US was willing to offer military support to the SPLA to bring them in par with the SAF, Sudan's foreign ministry said this was strange and warned the US Administration of consequences of what it referred to as playing with fire.

Government sources did not rule out the possibility of summoning the US ambassador to Sudan to ask for an official explanation regarding the statements made by US officials.

On the SPLA side, there were conflicting statements from its officials regarding the US military support. SPLA spokesman said that they had no link with foreign funding, but the southern government minister in the office of the president said that they had the right to ask for military support to develop their military.

AlSahafa on the other hand quotes defence minister Lt-Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hussein as having said there is nothing new in the US threat to tip the military balance in

favour of the south. He pointed out that Washington had continued to give all means of military and moral support to the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] since its inception.

However, he said the announcement of this latest threat "revealed US insincerity towards the peace achieved through agreements in the south, east and Darfur."

The minister asked what Washington's humanitarian stance towards the citizens of Darfur had to do with signalling its support for the SPLA? He said "this would not resolve the humanitarian situation in Darfur but in fact could lead to discord and inevitably to a new humanitarian disaster."

Lt-Gen Hussein said the aim of this US move "could under no circumstances be humanitarian but was an attempt to put pressure on the government to accept deployment of international troops in order to implement US agendas. If these troops could have resolved the problem we would not have hesitated to accept them but they will definitely only complicate the crisis and aggravate it driving the country and the region into a sea of chaos," the minister added.

The minister further pointed out to what was going on in Iraq where he said hundreds of thousands of troops with all their weapons and supplies had failed to reinstate security and stability. Moreover, he said the number of victims in a week [in Iraq] were the equivalent to the number of victims of the problem of Darfur over recent years.

The minister said if Washington cared about Sudan "it should, as it promised, put pressure on those who rejected the Abuja agreement." "It not only broke its promise but has gone to the extent of providing moral and political support to the armed movements," the minister added and explained that rebels were the reason for continuing violations in Darfur.

The minister stressed that the government stood by its position calling for the AU to head all operations in Darfur. "The government does not object to the UN having a role in providing technical and logistic support to the African troops and for their experts to work under the leadership of the AU as observer troops," he said.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

GoSS authorities in Unity State order shops of northern traders closed

(Allintibaha) GoSS authorities have ordered the closure of shops ordered by northern Sudanese traders in the town of Rabkona and Bentieu, Unity State.

Sources say the closure was ordered on the grounds that the traders had not paid licence fees while the traders say they have indeed paid all related fees.

Other Headlines from SudanTribune.com: Click to follow the link

- ❖ [South Sudan President briefed on scrutiny of govt contracts](#)
- ❖ [South Sudan gets postal gateway, looks towards telecommunications one](#)

- ❖ Lakes State welcomes 284 returnees back home
- ❖ Uganda to probe alleged harassment of its nationals in Sudan
- ❖ Three Kenyans Killed in South Sudan
- ❖ News South Sudan minister of finance freezes govt accounts
- ❖ South Sudan Rumbek graduated 120 prisons guard's soldiers

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Situation in Darfur on the brink of collapse, says governor

(AlRai AlAam *et al*, SudanTribune.com; BBC Monitoring) Tension was high in Nyala yesterday as citizens protested before the offices of the state government accusing the government of involvement in a recent clash between the Turgem and Rizeigat tribesmen of the region that left behind 60 people dead and an unknown number of injured.

Protestors blocked the road connecting the military base to the headquarters of the state government and local Turgem elders said they will only collect their dead after an investigation is carried out on the types of weapons used by the Rizeigat in the attack that took place the day before yesterday. They also called upon the defence and interior ministers to come to Nyala to see for themselves the kinds of guns used in the attack and the degree of damage done.

The Turgem also handed a memorandum of protest to the UN, copy to the state government, accusing the Border Intelligence Units of backing the Rizeigat Abbala tribesmen in the clashes and called for an investigation by an independent body. They also called on the state to bear its responsibilities to protect the people, pursue the culprits and return the property looted.

On the other hand, the governor who had a hard time getting into his offices yesterday told reporters following a meeting with Turgem elders that a committee made up of the SAF and the office of the prosecutor will investigate the incident while another committee will look into reports that “strange guns” were used during the attacks

He pointed out that the situation in Darfur is near breaking point if the implementation of the security arrangements is not done soon.

SLM-MM dead may be buried today

(AlRai AlAam; Rai AlShaab) Authorities are at high alert as SLM-MM is expected later today to bury their dead who fell during the recent clashes in Omdurman.

Sources also say the police have done a good job in disarming the capital.

But SLM-MM says the police is to blame for the clashes that took place nine days ago. The movement has also accused the police of looting and destroying assets at the SLM guesthouse in Omdurman during the raid and of destroying all documents they found.

A group of reporters that toured the site of the clashes confirm the area had been totally ransacked.

The *SudanTribune.com* also carries a report that the US has called for a prove of the killing in the police-SLM-MM clashes and joined envoys Salim and Eliasson in offering condolences to the bereaved families, relatives and friends of those who lost their lives.

Salva Kiir appoints SPLM envoy for peace in Darfur

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) SPLM/A leader Salva Kiir has issued a decree appointing an SPLM envoy for peace in Darfur.

The appointment of Reverend Clement Johnson as SPLM envoy for peace in Darfur comes in line with the resolutions of the meeting of the SPLM Interim National Council held recently in Yei.

The envoy will be assisted in his mission by a technical team made up of AbdelAziz el-Hillu, Yassir Arman, Edward Lino, James Kuk, Priscilla Nyang and Joseph Asheer Dang.

Armed group raids and kills in IDP camp in Zalengei

(*Rai AlShaab*) A man and his wife were attacked by an unidentified group of armed men in the el-Hassaheisa IDP camp, Zalengei. The two were rushed to hospital where the man soon lost his life.

A similar incident occurred also a few days later at the el-Hameediya IDP camp where another man was shot dead also by an unidentified group.

There is no link between the two incidents but sources reveal that the killings involved people suspected to pass information to Sudanese security and that the murders may have been a measure to silence them.

Darfur rebel groups welcome UN Human Rights Council resolution

(*AlSharq AlAwsat via BBC Monitoring*) Armed movements that rejected the Abuja agreement on Darfur peace have welcomed the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the formation of a senior level mission to assess the situation in Darfur.

The movements urged the international community to follow up the council's resolutions. They denounced at the same time the statements by Interior Minister Prof Al-Zubayr Bashir Taha who considered the Darfur issue an American fabrication.

Ahmad Hussein of the JEM regarded the council's resolution as a new blow to the Sudanese regime. He said there was a major and deep rift between the countries in the world, specifically between the African countries and the nations that feel disappointment and pangs

of conscience over the tragedy in Darfur. "If officials in the government had a conscience they would have all resigned," he said.

He said that the countries that supported the Sudanese regime have not denied the existence of terrible violations in the province and that is why the resolution was passed unanimously. "If the regime understands anything about international law, it would have realized that this resolution is more serious than the former committee", which he said had seven rapporteurs instead of just one in its predecessor.

Meanwhile Isam al-Haj, spokesman for the non-signatory Sudan Liberation Movement told Al-Sharq al-Awsat he regretted denials by the Sudanese government of the violations it committed in Darfur. He said the regime was jubilant that the Human Rights Council's resolution was not phrased in clear language "but the statement is the strongest since the council's establishment, especially in view of the permanent committee it has formed to follow up all previous agreements with the Sudanese government".

He asked where was the role of the international community concerning the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council. He said the international community was still negotiating with Al-Bashir's government which honours no pledges or agreements. He predicted that Khartoum would dissociate itself within the next few hours from the latest agreement it signed in Riyadh on Darfur under the aegis of the Saudi Monarch "unless the international community moved to implement resolutions on trying the war criminals and deployment of international forces".

Al-Haj stressed his movement's refusal to consider negotiations with the Sudanese government in its present formation. "The regime lacks morality, especially because of the presence among its members of individuals accused of crimes against humanity," Al-Haj said.

He described the interior minister's statements as contradictory. "How can somebody who does not have his daily subsistence buy weapons from the United States?" he asked. He said the interior minister was part of the problem and that the government, after having failed to achieve a military victory, was now trying to score such a victory in cities against those who have signed the Abuja Agreement with it.

Islamic clerics say inaccurate copies of the Koran in circulation in Darfur

(*Allintibaha*) The Council of Sudanese *Ullama* (Muslim clerics) issued a statement recently calling upon the faithful to be vigilant because there are inaccurate copies of the Holy Koran in circulation in Darfur. The statement pointed out that the first such copy was uncovered in el-Fasher.

The printers, AlAzhar University Press in Egypt, have admitted to having printed those copies in error.

Other Headlines:

- ❖ **Former Darfur rebels committed to peace after clash**
- ❖ **CAR refugees flee into Darfur after raid by French troops**

