

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 18 September 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Darfur violence could hamper peace process - UN's Ban

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. UNITED NATIONS) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today expressed deep concern at the recent surge in fighting across the war-torn Darfur region in Sudan, warning that it jeopardizes the chances of success of the peace talks being held next month to try to end the conflict.

“The SG strongly urges all parties to show restraint and cease all military action in order to create a positive atmosphere for the envisaged political negotiations,” his spokesperson said in a statement.

He cited last week's attacks in the town of Haskanita when, according to reports of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), aerial bombardments involving helicopter gunship and military clashes on the ground caused the deaths of many civilians. Mr. Ban also referred to the attacks last month that took place in Adilla, South Darfur, and Wad Banda, in the neighboring Kordofan region.

“The Secretary-General is alarmed by the fact that the reported attacks took place in spite of the signing of a joint communiqué on 6 September, during the Secretary-General's visit to Sudan, in which the Government of Sudan committed to a full cessation of hostilities in Darfur in the lead-up to the political negotiations,” the statement said.

Today's statement by Mr. Ban's spokesperson was released as the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported that a vehicle belonging to a non-governmental organization (NGO) was carjacked by two armed men in North Darfur state over the weekend. The armed men forced the driver and 10 other staff members of the NGO out of the vehicle.

Rights violations are continuing with impunity in Darfur - UN

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. GENEVA) The United Nations top human rights official warned on Monday that rights violations are continuing in Darfur and that the Sudanese government has yet to make serious progress on tackling impunity for offenders.

"Darfur continues to be a matter of serious preoccupation," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour told journalists. She said that human rights violations continue to be of the same nature and largely on the same scale.

People forced into camps after fleeing their homes continue to be targeted, with women in particular vulnerable to sexual attacks, she said, warning that there was "very little progress on national efforts to combat the culture of impunity."

However, Arbour said the prospect of a joint UN-African Union "hybrid" peacekeeping force give some hope of new momentum towards a peaceful settlement.

UN peacekeeping forces warned of facing odds against success

(Reuter) The former commander of the failed UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda has warned the newly-appointed head of the Darfur peacekeepers that he faces "long odds" against success.

In an open letter, the former Canadian general, now senator, Romeo Dallaire, advised Nigerian General Martin Agwai to demand a clear chain of command, a broad mandate, proper resources and rapid deployment - and above all to "watch his back", saying he can anticipate being let down by everyone but will still be blamed for whatever failures occur.

Gen Dallaire told the BBC: "The only thing he (Agwai) can do is try to stop the rot, permit the humanitarians to get in, get those people back and to do that he does need ultimately the force multipliers (helicopters) from the developed world."

UN says violence increasing in Darfur camps

(Reuters) Violence is increasing in camps for displaced people in Darfur, where nearly a quarter million people have been displaced so far this year, a U.N. report said on Monday.

The United Nations said rising violence in the overcrowded camps of the remote region of western Sudan was making it harder to carry out humanitarian aid work to help the thousands of newcomers arriving each week.

"Over 240,000 people have been newly displaced or re-displaced during 2007," the U.N. report said. "In many IDP (internally displaced people) camps, armed elements are present, and violent incidents are increasing."

"During August, humanitarian activities had to be suspended in several camps due to insecurity," the report added. So far this year, the report said, humanitarian workers have been forced to move out on 24 occasions.

Heavy rains in much of Sudan, including Darfur, also brought new problems, including waterborne diseases and malnutrition, the U.N. report said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also expressed concern about the growing insecurity.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Nafi discusses with Minnawi Darfur future dossier

(AlAyam) President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie said Monday he reviewed with the Chairman of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA) Mini Minnawi steps that should be taken as regards Darfur future dossier.

He added that the dossier master plan was based on follow up of the implementation of Abuja agreement and on going preparations to negotiate with the Abuja non-

signatory movements. He assured of the government and the Arab League's determination to convene the Arab donor conference on Darfur.

On his part, TDRA Advisor on DPA implementation Mohamed Al-Tigani Al-Tayeb explained that the objective of the meeting was to rejuvenate the newly- formed committees of the follow up implementation committee, communication for Darfurian- Darfurian committee as well as the humanitarian committee.

Meanwhile *Khartoum Monitor* quoted Minnawi as saying the security situation was restored to normality and called on all Darfur armed movements to attend the upcoming round of peace talks to be held in Tripoli in October.

SPLM describes police statement as unprofessional

(*AlSudani*) The SPLM voiced astonishment over repeated statements issued by the police leaderships pertinent to crack down on SPLM premises in the context of ransacking hideouts of illegal arms in the National capital.

A statement issued by SPLM's Spokesperson for Northern Sector Deng Gouj Aiuweil described the police repeated statements as "unprofessional" saying that dismissal of senior NCP and SPLM's justification to the incident on the part of the police's leaderships was considered as down playing to the virtue of apology.

He said that stating baseless accusations reveals the real police's leadership's ill-intentions and proves to be as Assistant to the President Dr. Nafie termed as "unjustifiable act".

He added that the first statement of the police contradicted the second one, which denied the presence of any kind of weapon in the SPLM's premises, noting that any attempt to link the relation of the SPLM with the ceased weapons would lend the credibility of the police questionably. The statement scorned endeavors to relate the affiliation of rest house of the Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) to the SPLM.

Sudan requests arrest warrant against Amnesty International director

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government filed an application with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for the arrest of the top Amnesty International official.

Sudanese officials told the government sponsored Sudanese Media Center (SMC) that a complaint has been filed against Irene Khan, the Secretary General of Amnesty International for "malicious reporting", on the torture of a jailed opposition leaders.

Amnesty International alleged that jailed opposition figures accused by Khartoum of a coup attempt were tortured and physically abused. Sudan has categorically denied the allegations of torture saying that the detainees were well treated and afforded their full constitutional rights. However the detainees were not charged with anything since their arrest while reports suggest that Sudanese authorities have been to extract confession from them.

North South border panel presents report to Sudanese presidency

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KHARTOUM) Sudanese Presidency listened to a report by the north-south border demarcation committee as per 1 January 1956 borders. The report was presented during a meeting chaired by president Omer al-Bashir.

The report included the activities of the committee and their future plan as well as completing survey process for the areas which were not covered because of the rainfall and completing classification of documents and maps following the visits to Egypt and Britain to obtain more documents. The committee will forward its final report on first quarter of the coming year.

State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic, Telar Ring Deng, said that the presidency will instruct all the concerned authorities to extend whatever support that is necessary for the work of the committee.

US holds one million USD programme for MPs of marginalized areas

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KAMPALA) The US Administration is committing a total of \$1 million in training programmes towards the upliftment of Southern Sudan, weekly The East African Business Week said.

26 members of parliament from South Kordofan state of Sudan are in Uganda attending a two and a half month diploma programme at the International Law Institute-African Centre for Legal Excellence (ILI-ACLE).

The training support funding from the American government is channeled through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The CPA, signed in 2005, gave special attention to Abyie, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, collectively called the Three Areas.

The parliamentarians comprise of both the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

The training programme that started over a year ago focuses on empowering parliamentarians from the Sudan and it is scheduled to end this year. It is hoped that, due to the increased skills of the parliamentarians, they will benefit from the improved legislative administration and decreased potential for conflict.

NCP kicks off search for next deputy speaker

(*The Citizen*) The National Congress Party has started close door meetings to replace the Deputy speaker who defected from the party, The Citizen has learnt.

Tor Deng, the deputy speaker of the southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, last week defected from the party, saying he was tired of lying to his people about NCP programs, which were non-existent. Under the peace agreement the deputy speaker in the south comes from the NCP.

The NCP southern sector met Saturday to discuss who would be proposed to take over from Tor. No names have been announced.

Tor said some Administrative procedures were underway to pull him out of the Assembly. He yesterday still chaired the parliamentary session.

Miseria threatens to escalate Abyie issue

(*Alwan*) Miseria tribe warns to take counter action against SPLM and international organizations plans to impose experts report on Abyie across the area.

Higher committee for Miseria tribe spokesman Gen retried Mahadi Bau Nimir criticizes SPLM unilateral stand of inviting experts' delegation to visit Abyie without referring to main partner and the people in the area. Nimir said Miseria should not stay with hands tied on their back whilst SPLM and international organizations

Moreover Nimir accuses UN organizations existing in Abyie of leading attempt to provoke differences between Miseria and Dinka Nuk and seek annexing the area to the south.

GoSS

South Sudan, donors discuss security challenges

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. JUBA) South Sudan government officials and aid agency representatives met on 14 September, at UNMIS headquarters in Juba, to discuss the security challenges facing Southern Sudan.

The meeting focused on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants, as well as demining and other security sector issues, a UN press release said.

The donor conference was convened by the Security Sector Budget Working Group, a body of the GoSS supported by the UN DDR programme. Representatives of several U.S. and European aid agencies attended the meeting, including the European Commission, the Joint Donor Team and U.S.A.I.D.

The Security Sector Budget Working Group is composed of the Southern Sudan DDR Commission (SSDDRC), the Southern Sudan Demining Commission and the Ministry of SPLA Affairs. It is supported by the UN DDR programme.

Bahr Al Ghazal state authorities start to remove one of the ancient mosques in Wau

(*Rai AlShaab*) Bahr Al-Ghazal authorities were reported to have started removing of Soug Algaw mosque inside Wau city in the wake of a decree issued by the State Governor for the re-planning of the city.

A number of Wau citizens told (*Rai AlShaab* daily) that these procedures aimed at threatening Muslim's sacred places saying that the Governor (Wali) upon assuming

his post had threatened to do so, a matter, which moved the State's government to apologize for the Muslims.

Reliable sources told the paper that the state government was planning to remove part of Soug Al-Hagar mosque adding that these mosques have been surviving for more than 50 years. The sources predict that the removal of mosques might lead to confrontations between the Muslims and the government authorities.

Obstacles confront transference of Juba University to the south

(*AlKhartoum*) SPLM Leading figure and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Atim Garang told (*AlKhartoum* daily) that many obstacles were currently confronting the transfer of the University of Juba from Khartoum to Juba.

Emerging from a meeting with the university Vice-Chancellor, Garang said that the university campus would shift gradually from Khartoum to Juba maintaining that the current buildings in Juba could not accommodate the expansion of the university's existing faculties.

He added that he reviewed with the university's Vice-Chancellor student's violence in the university and its effect on the student's academic performance as well as efforts exerted by the university in containing this phenomenon.

Darfur

Clashes between two rebel movements erupted north of Kutum town

(*Alwan*) Fierce clash erupted between National Redemption Front (NRF) elements and JEM north ward of Kutum in Darfur region.

As consequence four elements from JEM were killed and other injured. However, JEM prominent member Abu Bakr Hamid when asked refused to elaborate. But NRF commander Suleiman Bahar told that fighting between the two movements erupted on background that JEM refused to return three land cruisers it had borrowed from the redemption front.

The fight and tension said have cooled down in response to mediation by SLM wing of Abdul Wahid Nur which invited the two parties for a meeting in Jabal Mara.

Darfur native administration leaderships express reservation on population census

(*AlSudani*) Darfur transitional authority will hold within the up coming period a workshop to probe difficulties facing the population census in Darfur States, scheduled to be carried out throughout Sudan next February.

While, the census media committee has just finalized an introductory tour to Darfur States, the native administration in West Darfur rejected conducting the census before the realization of a comprehensive peace.

Officials at Darfur transitional administration have warned of tremendous obstacles that will hinder the process of conducting the census represented in the presence of huge numbers of refugees from the neighboring countries and the rejection of the IDPs in the camps to deal with the census officials.

Many native administration leaders argue that declaring the deadline of the census prior to solving the issues of the displaced in the neighboring countries is unacceptable.

Some sources estimate Sudanese refugees in neighboring Chad at 200,000 persons, most of them from West Darfur State, who migrated following the flaring up of war in 2003.

Sultan of Masaleit tribe Assad Abdurrahman Bahreddin has said that negligence of those from the population survey will mean replacement them by other people, in a clear reference to the incoming of great influx of refugees.

According to (AlSudani daily) sources, the new settlers at West Darfur are concentrated on Um-Dukhn locality on the Sudanese –Chadian borders and they are affiliated to Arab tribes.

Rebel leader says to struggle for Darfur separation if peace talks fail

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KHARTOUM) The leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said today that if the new Darfur peace talks fail, the rebels want their own separate country.

Speaking in the stronghold of Haskanita, surrounded by heavily armed fighters JEM chairman, Khalil Ibrahim, told the BBC World TV that without equality the people of Darfur could not remain in Sudan. "The next step Darfur will ask for, not only for self-determination, but clearly we want separation and we want our own country," he said.

Khalil said he believed the Sudanese government was looking for a way out of the conflict but at minimum cost. He added that Abuja agreement didn't provide self-rule for the people of Darfur. While JEM demands autonomy for Darfur as one region besides power sharing, wealth sharing on the federal level.

US hails release of Darfur rebel figure

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KHARTOUM) The US embassy in Khartoum praised the decision of the Sudanese government to allow the departure of Darfur senior rebel figure Suleiman Jamous for medical treatment abroad.

The humanitarian coordinator left the UN military hospital on Friday heading to Nairobi and then to N'djamena, Chad because the international body said he didn't meet UN conditions to be treated there.

"The United States government welcomes the Government of Sudan's decision to allow Suleiman Jamous to leave the country for medical treatment under an

agreement which the United Nations helped negotiate." Said a statement issued by US embassy yesterday. The statement described Jamous as "an important leader" in Darfur Adding he has a "potentially important role to play in the peace process."

Former world leaders, laureates to visit Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. JOHANNESBURG) A council of peacemaking world leaders and Nobel laureates launched by former President Nelson Mandela is taking up Darfur as its first mission, with a trip to Sudan planned later this month, the organization said Monday.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who chairs the group known as The Elders, will lead a delegation that will include former U.S. president Jimmy Carter; Mandela's wife Graca Machel, a long time campaigner for children's rights; and Lakhdar Brahimi, a former U.N. envoy to Iraq. Mandela won't be part of the mission.

"We want the suffering to end - and we hope to contribute to that," Tutu said in a statement.

More than 200,000 people have died in Darfur and 2.5 million have been displaced in four years of fighting between rebel groups and government-backed militias.

Tutu's delegation, which will be in Sudan from Sept. 30 to Oct. 5, will meet in Sudan's capital with government and opposition, civil society and international organization representatives, and will then travel to Darfur to visit local community leaders and displaced people.

Darfur camp IDPs stage peaceful rally on world Darfur solidarity day

(*Sudan tribune*) In an exclusive statement to Sudan tribune, Darfur IDP camp activists Adam Bosh revealed a plan for a peaceful rally this morning across Darfur camps to coincide with World Darfur Solidarity Day.

Bosh expressed heart-felt gratitude on behalf of all Darfuris for citizens of nations across the globe for the initiative proving that the conscience of humanity is alive and well rekindling hope for beleaguered Darfurians.

Armed clashes between SAF and SPLM in Muglad

Rai AlShaab reported that clashes have re-erupted Monday between SAF and the SLM, when SAF troops ambushed the house of the SLM General Commander brigadier Hassan Hamid and exchanging fire with his guards.

The SLM spokesperson, Abdurrahman Jubara, accused SAF of attacking the house of Hassan Hamid , while he was on his way back from Dibab Camp (40 klm from Muglad) after visiting his family.

Jubara warned of the deteriorating situations in the area, adding that repeated SAF violations and attacks would cause security disorder in the area despite the presence of JIU and UN representatives.

Meanwhile *AlIntibaha* reported that SAF soldiers have surrounded the house of an SLM Commander because an SLM leader, brigadier Ibrahim Salim, entered Al Muglad wearing his military uniform and disappeared in the commander's house.

AlRai AlAam reported that the UN Force Commander General Jasper Lieder said to Radio Miraya FM yesterday that the Ceasefire Commission decided to freeze demobilization of SLM forces from South Kordofan. He said that logistic reasons are behind the decision, noting that no details over the demobilization are given by the SLM to the Commissioner.