



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 24 October 07

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN envoy arrives in Sudan on year after Pronk expulsion

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. KHARTOUM) The U.N.'s new top envoy to Sudan flew into Khartoum on Tuesday, a year to the day after his predecessor was expelled. Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Qazi took up his duties as the U.N. Secretary General's special representative in Sudan at a time of deepening political uncertainty in Africa's biggest state.

A faltering north-south peace deal, which Qazi will be expected to oversee, was thrown into crisis when former southern rebels withdrew their ministers from the country's coalition government on Oct. 11. Qazi's arrival also coincides with an upsurge in violence in Sudan's western Darfur region, just days ahead of peace talks between the government and splintered rebel groups.

It was Darfur that sealed the fate of Qazi's predecessor, the Dutch diplomat Jan Pronk. Pronk angered Khartoum by publishing comments on his web log saying the Sudanese army had lost two major battles to rebels in North Darfur and soldiers were refusing to fight. He flew out of Khartoum on Oct. 23, 2006, after the government ordered him to leave, calling him a threat to Sudanese security.

U.N. officials in Khartoum said the timing of Qazi's arrival was a coincidence. "It is just that Mr. Qazi had some work to finish up in his previous mission before arriving here and this is how the timing worked out," said spokeswoman Radhia Achouri. Qazi was the U.N.'s special representative in Iraq before taking up the Sudan post.

Qazi is due to make his first public appearance at U.N. Day celebrations on Wednesday. Qazi told Reuters in September that his first job in Sudan would be to win the trust of the signatories of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement - a deal which ended a two-decade long civil war between the north and the south.

UN Security Council condemns attack on AMIS troops in Haskanita

(*AlSudani, AlHayat, AlAyam*) The UN Security Council condemned yesterday the attack on the African peacekeepers in Haskanita. In a statement read by the President of the Council for this month, the UN Security Council called for arresting members of the group who launched the attack and bringing them to justice. The Council affirmed its support for the hybrid operation in Darfur and called on parties to the conflict in Darfur to observe cessation of hostilities and stop attacks on African troops and civilians.

UN Hopes All Darfur Rebel Groups Will Attend Talks Eventually

(*The Associated Press*) The U.N.'s humanitarian chief said Wednesday he hoped that upcoming peace talks on the Sudanese war-ravaged region of Darfur will eventually bring together all the rebel movements, even though some of them now refuse to participate in the meeting.

The talks between the Sudanese government and rebel groups, which will open on Oct. 27, are challenged by the proliferation of rebel movements which appear to have different demands, said John Holmes, the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

"It's hard to get them all back together, united at least in terms of what their demands are," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We know that some people will not be there," Holmes said, referring to Abdul Wahid AlNur, a key Darfur rebel chief who has refused to attend the talks, to be held in the Libyan city of Sirte.

Some other small rebel factions have also indicated that they won't participate in the meeting, he added. But "we hope that once the talks start, others may join in later," said Holmes. "It's not a once-for-all offer. It is possible to join later if the process starts to make progress."

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Al-Bashir addresses National Assembly (Parliament)

President al Bashir addressed yesterday the National Assembly at the beginning of a new session. Below is a summary of what he has said on major issues.

SPLM Decision Calls for Revising CPA Political Concepts, Al-Bashir

(*The Citizen*) ***President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, has affirmed that the SPLM decision to pull out from the government and the developments that ensued from that decision have offset a new political language in which consultation and cooperation have been replaced by dissention and conflict.***

"This calls for revising the political concepts on which the peace agreement has been based," President Al Bashir said, pointing out that peace is a joint responsibility between the two partners as well as a common responsibility of all Sudanese citizens rather than being a one-sided process in terms of efforts exerted, deserts and obligations. He explained that the peace agreement is equipped with mechanisms that both warrant and assess implementation by the two partners.

In his address before the National Legislative Council, *Al Bashir reaffirmed determination to fully implement the CPA in both North and South, urging the SPLM to reconsider its decision to freeze its participation in the Central Government.*

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. KHARTOUM) Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir urged on Tuesday the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to lift the suspension of its participation in the central government, warning that the decision has put peace efforts in danger.

In his address to the parliament, the Sudanese president noted that *the SPLM's decision to freeze the participation of its ministers in the government had "put the peace efforts in front of real choice which we had not expected."*

On Darfur peace talks: President Al Bashir underlined the government's keenness on finalizing Darfur peace through Sirte Conference sponsored by the AU and UN, stressing that the Conference can only be a success by effective participation at the highest levels.

On ESPA: President Al Bashir further reviewed the steps taken in the peace agreement of Eastern Sudan following the Republican decrees and state resolutions issued for implementing power- and wealth-sharing protocols and embarking on security arrangements.

Speaker urges auditing accounts of GoSS The National Legislative Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir, invited First Vice President Salva Kiir to appoint a financial auditor for South Sudan to avoid funds being sent to unknown destinies.

"How can the National Government remit billions of dollars to a part of the country without enquiring into the manner in which these huge amounts are utilized?" Al Tahir asked, adding that citizens in the South have no means of verifying that the funds remitted have been used for their welfare. He considered that in the absence of institutions that oversee and control performance, these funds are wasted, ascribing the responsibility for the wastage to the federal government and the Government of the South alike.

SAF takes civilian hostages, police impounds truckloads of explosives

(*The Citizen*) The frontline states remained tense yesterday with fresh reports indicating that the Sudan Armed Forces arrested a group of Southern Sudanese Internal displaced persons who were heading to northern Bahr Al Ghazal.

And in Upper Nile, SAF was beefing up troops to rescue four truckloads of ammunitions impounded by police two weeks ago as they were being smuggled into the south, said SPLA spokesperson Major General Kuol Deim. The announcement of the hostage was made at a cabinet meeting yesterday, where the new Government of Southern Sudan ministers took oath.

Presidential advisor Lual Diing Wol told the cabinet that the SAF had arrested some civilians who were returning to the south from Northern Sudan, describing the incident as “Unfortunate”. The arrested IDPs were forced out when the SPLA and the SAF clashed over conflict over local brew, the Marisa. Some observers fear that the arrest of IDPs may force the SPLA to retaliate, which would farther escalate the military situation.

At yesterday’s swearing in of the new ministers, The President of the GoSS, Salva Kiir, told the newly appointed ministers that SAF has built up its army in Rum-akeer and that it had detained the civilians who were returning home. Kiir said the clashes between SAF and SPLA in RUM-akeer were isolated incidents which should have been control if SAF was not having hidden intentions of fighting the SPLA in the area.

Row deepens as Parliament passes motion to back SPLM walkout

(The Citizen) The north-south political impasse deepened yesterday with the southern Sudan Parliament, yesterday unanimously adopting a motion supporting a decision by the SPLM to walk out of government. And, in a compromise position with other political parties, the lawmakers unanimously set up a committee to meet President Bashir and first VP Kiir as part of efforts to resolve the current impasse. The parliamentary resolution comes a day before the two president meet again to try and resolve the issues, which would pave the way for the SPLM ministers to return to the Government of National Unity. President Kiir said Monday that the SPLM ministers would stay out of government until an agreement was reached.

NCP demands SPLM to identify borders of 1905 for Abyei

(AlAyam) the NCP leader and member of the ABC al Dirdeeri Mohamed Ahmed asked the SPLM to move forward from the ABC report to identifying the 1905 borders of the area. According to al Dirdeeri the Abyei issued could be solved very soon if the SPLM accepted this proposal. However, the Abyei area MP James Ajeng said the problem of Abyei could only be solved by accepting and implementing the ABC report.

Ethiopia’s PM meets Sudanese government delegation

(Sudan Tribune.com – 22 Oct. ADDIS ABABA) Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi held talks today with a delegation led by Nafi Ali Nafi Assistants to the President of the Sudan, Omar al-Bashir. The discussions were focused on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Sudanese government and former rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in 2005 to end a 21-year conflict. The visit tended to brief the Ethiopian leadership of the crisis surfaced between the National Congress and SPLM.

Armed confrontations between SAF and SPLA

(*AlAyam*) A prominent member in the Joint Military Committee said two of SPLA troops have yesterday suffered serious injuries as a result of violent confrontations between SAF and SPLA in Damakir area in North Bahr al Ghazal State following tensions between the two parties at the border areas.

Militias stops more than 10 trucks carrying IDPs in al Miram area

(*AlAyam*) SPLM MP in the National Assembly Moi Deng said more than 10 trucks carrying IDPs on their way to northern Bahr al Ghazal have been stopped by Arab militias in al Miram area. He said the trucks were stopped by militias three days ago. The MP said he has submitted a complaint on this issue to the Security and Defence Committee of the Assembly.

Ministry of Finance: Budget for 2007 does not exceed US\$ 11 billion

(*AlWatan*) Informed sources at the Federal Ministry of Finance denied truth of a statement by the SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum in which he accused the Government of receiving US\$ 13 billion from oil revenues during this year. The sources said oil revenues did not reach US\$ 13 billion the beginning of oil exports. The Sudan budget for 2007 did not exceed US\$ 11 billion, the sources said.

GoSS

South Sudan urges IGAD summit to discuss CPA crisis

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. NAIROBI) South Sudan has appealed to Kenya to convene a regional summit to help resolve a political crisis that threatens to unravel a peace deal that halted two decades of war in the south, an official said Tuesday. A day before Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir and southern leader Salva Kiir meet for a second time in Khartoum, the region urged President Mwai Kibaki to call for an Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit urgently. "We are appeal to President Kibaki to organize an IGAD summit to discuss the implementation of the peace agreement," a southern Sudan official told AFP. IGAD members can call for a summit but southern Sudan cannot because of its semi-autonomous status.

Southern Sudan state intensifies campaign on census

(*BBC Monitoring*) – *USAID* Despite arguments between the northern and southern governments about funding and other support for the census, educating people about the census must continue. That statement from Western Equatoria Deputy Governor Joseph Ngere, who told Sudan Radio Service by phone from Yambio, last week that the state has intensified its campaigns to enlighten people on the importance of the census, which is scheduled to take place in February 2008. Mr. Ngere said that Sudan's leaders have an obligation to make sure that everybody knows what the census is all about so that they are counted.

Cattle-herding tribe said to destroy crops in southern Sudan state

(*BBC Monitoring*) – *USAID* the Mundri [Western Equatoria State, southern Sudan] county commissioner says all Ambororo nomads [a cattle-herding tribe] should leave Mundri County immediately. This follows complaints from people in the Western Equatoria County that Ambororo cattle are destroying crops.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service on Monday by phone from Juba, Mundri-West County Commissioner Bullen Abetere said that Government of Southern Sudan Vice President Riek Machar has issued an order for the Ambororo to move out of Mundri in an effort to avoid further conflict between them and the local community. Mr. Abetere said that the Ambororo's estimated 72,000 head of cattle have damaged numerous farms. He said that local authorities and the Ambororo have agreed that the Ambororo will compensate farmers whose crops were consumed or trampled by the cattle.

Darfur

***On Sirte peace talks on Darfur**

A statement by Alpha Omar Konare the Darfur talks in Sirte

Prof Alpha Omar Konare, Chairperson of the African Union Commission paid a brief visit to Khartoum, Sudan on Tuesday, 23 October 2007. He was received in audience by President Omar Al Bashir. Present at the meeting were Mr. Ali Karti, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry of the Sudan, Mr. Rodolphe Adada, AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur and AMIS Head of Mission, and several senior African Union and Sudanese government officials. At the end of the meeting, Prof Konare made the following statement to the press:

We are barely a few days to the start of negotiations in Sirte. Therefore, it is normal that I should come, meet and exchange views with President Bashir. We are determined to deploy every resource to ensure that the forthcoming talks in Sirte achieve great success. And I can tell you after my meetings this morning that President Bashir and his government are determined to do everything for Sirte to succeed. We also hope that our other Sudanese brothers are similarly committed, and we have received word that all our brothers are also determined to work for the achievement of peace.

The United Nations will certainly be one with the African Union and we know from our contacts that our partners are also determined to support the Sirte negotiations. The time for peace is now! The moment for peace is now and we cannot afford to waste anymore time. We do not have the right for further delay, given the damage and destruction we see everyday.

SLM Unity demands Darfur talks postponement, will not go to Libya

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. PARIS) Another rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction requested today the postponement of Darfur peace talks set to begin in Sirte, Libya within four days. The group said would not attend Sirte talks.

The head of the SLM Unity faction, Abdalla Yahya demanded in a statement received by telephone the adjournment of peace negotiations with the Sudanese government. Abdalla said "the moment is not opportune for the talks."

He further said that rebels' unity is crucial for successful talks. The rebel leader indicated that rebel groups in Juba are engaged in a reunification process and mediators should delay the forthcoming talks in order to facilitate the ongoing efforts.

He also asserted that the withdrawal of the SPLM from the national unity government jeopardizes the talks because "We want the resolution of the current political crisis and see the SPLM involved in the peace process" Yahya said.

Six other recalcitrant rebel SLM factions under the command of Ahmed Abdelshafi, Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim, Jar al-Nabi Abdel Karim and Mohammed Aki Kelai as well as the Northern Command faction said also they would not attend the talks. However, the SLM/A faction of Khamis Abdallah Bakr said it would attend the Sirte talks. Nonetheless with the rejection of JEM to attend the talks, the Asmara based Khamis will not be able to end the conflict even if he signs a deal with Khartoum.

All the rebel groups criticized the ill prepared mediation and their exclusion from consultations undertaken in order to prepare the talks. The rebels were angered by the choice of Libya without their accord.

BREAKING NEWS: Key Darfur rebel group boycotts Libya peace talks

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. LONDON) Hopes for a Darfur peace accord were dealt a severe blow today after a key Darfur rebel group decided to boycott the upcoming peace talks mediated by an AU-UN team in Libya.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) issued a strongly worded statement in which they formally turned down the invitation to attend the peace talks. The surprise announcement came hours after six rebel factions said they will also skip on the talks.

In a brief statement posted at the JEM website, its spokesperson said that the leadership received an invitation for the chairman and four-member delegation each. The statement said the decision to boycott the talks was made after consultations with its allies.

JEM decided to boycott Site talks after consultations with its SLM-Unity faction people familiar with the matter told Sudan Tribune.

Analysts say that JEM's refusal to attend the peace negotiations set to commence on October 27 in Sirte is likely to contribute to the failure of the efforts by the AU-UN

team headed by Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim. State Department officials talking to Sudan Tribune said that the US will be present at the talks despite JEM's decision. The rebel group said that the mediation team has failed to pick the real powers involved in the conflict saying that small rebel groups were invited.

JEM blasted the AU-UN mediation team saying it has no clear vision on how to push forward the political process and that it has "failed to formulate a clear agenda for Sirte talks".

Six Darfur rebel factions to boycott peace talks

(Sudan Tribune.com – 23 Oct. JUBA, Sudan) A prominent Darfur rebel figure and five other smaller factions will not attend peace talks due to start this weekend in Libya, leaders said on Tuesday, casting doubt on prospects for a settlement.

Ahmed Abdel Shafi told reporters at a Darfur rebel meeting in south Sudan's capital Juba that African Union and United Nations mediators had not heeded rebel requests for a delay to allow them to form a united position and agree on a delegation.

"I was really shocked when people here are talking about unity and the United Nations started distributing invitations," he said. "It's ... a matter of sabotaging the process of unity," he said, adding unity talks were going well with more factions joining but more time was needed to complete negotiations.

Esam al-Hajj, another SLM rebel figure in Juba, said ***five other factions from the (SLM) would also not be going to the talks. "Six factions ... and field commanders ... have agreed not to participate in the current negotiations," he said.***

Added to SLM founder and popular leader Abdel Wahid Mohamed al-Nur's earlier refusal to attend the Libya talks, this would mean no rebels representing Darfur's largest tribe, the Fur, will be negotiating with Khartoum in Sirte.

Abdel Shafi also said African Union and United Nations mediators had taken key decisions without consulting the rebels. They objected to the choice of Libya, a country which has been directly involved in the conflict, as the venue for the talks. "We have a lot of reservations actually about the mediation," he said. On Libya, he said: "The people of Darfur feel ... that the neutrality is not there." He said it could take at least a month before the rebels were ready to attend peace talks.

Hajj said another worry was the withdrawal this month of the SPLM, from the national coalition government. "The government at the moment is not the legal government," he said.

Rebel groups to send delegates to Libya, continue meeting in Juba

(AlSahafa) the Darfur rebel factions decided at the conclusion of their meeting in Juba to send three delegates within 48 hours to the meet the Libyan mediator to ask him to adjourn the peace talks scheduled for 27 October until they unite the DPA non-signatory rebel groups. SLM G19 field commander Jar Alnabi Abdelkarim said the

factions have agreed not to go to Sirte talks before they are united and have a common negotiation position. The delegates will return from Libya to Juba to continue efforts for unifying their movements and/or negotiation position. According to *AlAyam*, ***Abdulkareem accused some UN officials of working for dividing the movements.***

(*AlRai AlAam*) JEM said it would participate in Sirte talks without conditions with a delegation to be headed by Ahmed Tugud Lisan.

GoS says Sirte talks not adjourned

(*AlRai AlAam*) the Government said it has named its delegation for Sirte talks on Darfur. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail told Sudan Media Centre (SMC) yesterday that the Government's delegation includes all parties represented in the GoNU. He refuted reports on adjourning the peace talks. *AlHayat*-- the Government delegation will be headed by Nafi Ali Nafi.

Government announces cease-fire in Darfur

(*AlSahafa*) The perpetual shell game Sudan is playing in Darfur resulted in yet another "breakthrough" yesterday when Khartoum announced a new "ceasefire" ahead of "peace talks" in Libya.

Abdelmahmood Mohamed, the Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations, made the announcement, saying Sudan wants to give a boost to long-awaited peace talks scheduled to open on Saturday in the Libyan city of Sirte. Meanwhile, President of AU Commission Alfa Omer Konare, who arrived here in a brief visit, stressed the importance of making the anticipated talks between the government and Darfur rebel Abuja non-signatory movements a success.

President Omer Bashir, who met and discussed with Konare the final preparations for the talks, situations in Darfur and the deployment of the hybrid operation, confirmed the government's determination to make the coming round of talks a success.

Following the meeting, Konare told journalists that the AU would provide every possible facility to the talks, calling on the two negotiating parties not to miss this opportunity with a view to avoiding more casualties. He added that incoming feedback assured that the international community is looking forward to the success of the talks. "This is the time of peace and we should not miss this opportunity and we have right to miss it because this means more of losses and sufferings", he stressed.

African Peace and Security Council discusses technical aspects of the hybrid

(*AlWihda*) The African Peace and Security Council has yesterday held its 69th session in Addis Ababa on the technical aspects of the hybrid operation in Darfur. Details of the operation were discussed in the presence of Sudan, UN and AU.

SLM Abdul Wahid and SLM Mahjoub Hussein announce unity of two factions

(*Alwan*) Leaders of the Federal Alliance (FA) and SLM Abdul Wahid have announced that the two organizations decided to unite in one movement. A statement issued by the office of the Federal Democratic Alliance for North Africa and the Higher Authority of the SLM said that the two movements have merged in one organization

in line with the statement which was signed in May 2004 by the SLM President Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour and Shareef Hareer the Deputy President of the FA.

UN time frame hinders Darfur rebel movement's consensus

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Darfur rebel movements currently convening in Juba said it is the responsibility of the UN that the movements have not agreed on a common platform, said Jar El Nabi Abdulkareem. "We will not go to the Serti talks unless we agree on a common negotiation position". He added that they had asked the UN to give them more time to agree. The meeting of Darfur rebel movements in Juba convened at an invitation by the SPLM which will attend the talks in the Libyan town of Serti, said Younis Mansour Arbab. Participation of the rebel movements in Serti talks deepened on their success in agreeing a common vision, said AlSadiq Ali Shibo of the National Movement for Reform and Development.

China delivers aid to Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. NYALA, Sudan) Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Li Chengwen Tuesday delivered a batch of aid to the local government of the western Sudanese region of Darfur. As the fundamental way out for Darfur lies in development, the delivery of the aid, including electric generators, pumps and medical instruments, is conducive to regional development of the conflict-torn region, said Li at the delivery ceremony in Nyala, capital city of the South Darfur State. The aid not only embodies the China-Sudan friendship, but represents the sincere hope of the Chinese government for the early realization of peace in Darfur, said the Chinese ambassador. China will continue to play a constructive role in the efforts to properly resolve the Darfur issue, he added.

Darfur rebel group blast UN-AU mediation

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. JUBA) The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction led by Ahmed Abdelshafi confirmed today they will not go to Libya and will not talk part in the forthcoming peace talks set to start on October 27. Abdalla Nouri, Top Aide of Abdelshafi, told Sudan Tribune that the leader of the group would not go to Sirte to participate in the forthcoming talks and will continue to prepare for the reunification of the SLM factions. "We want to create a common ground for the rebel factions" he said. Nouri charged the AU and UN chiefs are ignoring the rebel enquires and do not consult them. The senior aide also said Abdel-Shafi had sent a letter to the UN Secretary General and to AU chief requesting that the rebel groups are treated as equal partners in the peace process and not to focus solely on the Sudanese government.

Chinese envoy for Darfur arrives in Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 23 Oct. KHARTOUM) China's special envoy on Darfur issue Liu Guijin arrived in Khartoum on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Sudan. During his visit, the Chinese envoy will hold talks with Sudanese officials on the situation in Darfur as well as other issues of common concerns. This is Liu's third visit to Sudan since he was appointed to the present post in May. After the visit in Sudan, the Chinese envoy

will fly to Libya to attend the inaugural session of the peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and anti-government movements in Darfur.

Bin Laden calls for holy war against Darfur peacekeepers

(Sudan Tribune.com – 23 Oct. CAIRO) Osama Bin Laden renewed his call for a holy war against a proposed peacekeeping force in Sudan's war torn region of Darfur in a message that appeared on Web sites Tuesday. The audio recording was accompanied by a still picture of the al-Qaida leader, and excerpts were aired Monday by Al-Jazeera television. Bin Laden called for foreign forces to be driven from Darfur. "It is the duty of the people of Islam in the Sudan and its environs, especially the Arabian Peninsula, to perform jihad against the Crusader invaders and wage armed rebellion to remove those who let them in," he said, according to a transcript provided by Intel Center, which monitors extremist Web sites.

Darfur force has troops, needs helicopters-official

(Sudan Tribune.com – 23 Oct. ADDIS ABABA) Governments have pledged 90 percent of the planned 26,000 troops of a new U.N.-African Union (AU) peacekeeping force for Darfur, but a lack of helicopters could hamper the mission, a military official said on Tuesday. Talking to reporters after the AU's Peace and Security Council met in Ethiopia to discuss the operation, which is due to begin work at the start of 2008, General Henry Anyidoho said the joint force badly needed aircraft. "Unless the helicopters are pledged, it will have a negative impact on operations," Anyidoho, a senior official with the force, told a news conference in Addis Ababa.

The United Nations has been lobbying governments to provide helicopters for the force. But officials and diplomats say no country has made a credible offer yet to supply the 24 transport and attack helicopters needed. The force is due to replace an AU operation which lacks experience, equipment and cash. At least 10 AU troops were killed last month in an assault on their base in Darfur.

Senegal to send 1600 soldiers to Sudan's Darfur

(BBC Monitoring) - SMC website Senegal is preparing to send 1600 military and police men to the Darfur region soon within the framework of the AU peacekeeping force. A Senegalese paper reported that the chief of staff of the Senegalese army Gen Abdoulaye Fall had affirmed this before talking about the difficulties facing the African forces in Darfur.

Rwanda: US air force to continue assisting AU's Darfur mission

(BBC Monitoring) – RNA the US Air Force brigade 786th Air Expeditionary Squadron that has been supporting the African Union to air-lift peacekeepers and equipment from Rwanda has said it will continue to transport the missions, RNA reports. Writing on Air Force Link, the 786th AES says it will support the multiday mission based out of the Kigali International Airport in Rwanda. Airmen from the 786th Air Expeditionary Squadron, along with two C-17 Globemaster IIIs and aircrews from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. provided airlift for 400 Rwandan soldiers 20 October who are part of the African Union peacekeeping mission in the Darfur. This is the seventh

deployment in which the American Airmen have assisted in rotating Rwandan troops in and out of Darfur. The C-17s returned with Rwandan soldiers coming home after their eight-month deployment in Darfur.

Sudan: CSOs protest UN appointment of representatives to Sirte talks

(BBC Monitoring) – SMC website North Darfur state governor, Othman Muhammad Yusuf Kibir, urged the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to explain the task of the delegation appointed to represent the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at the Sirte talks in Libya for peace in Darfur between the government and rebels.

The governor also requested an explanation on how the members were appointed. At the same time, the civil society organizations in the state have protested against the UN and accused it of siding with the opposition parties against other civil society organizations.

They said the UN has appointed 15 persons from the opposition as representatives of the civil society organizations. Head of Al-Fashir's initiative for peace, Salah Muhammadi, said that they have protested in writing to the UN and HAC (Humanitarian Aid Commission) on the misrepresentation of civil society and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). He explained that the elements appointed as representatives for the IDPs and civil society organizations represent the opposition political forces. He pointed out that the representatives of other civil society organizations however were dropped including the Al-Fashir initiative appeal organization.

PDF group tries looting Rabkona market

(AlWatan) A PDF group in Unity State attempted to loot some of the shops in Rabkona market but the merchants managed to stop the group. According to the report five merchants were injured as a result. Authorities are investigating with the suspects.

Government protests for granting a US company tender to construct hybrid camps

(AlSahafa) The government has submitted an official protest to UN Secretariat- General for granting the US Pacific Company 250 million \$ for the construction of new five camps to the hybrid forces in Darfur. Sudan's Ambassador to UN Abdumahmoud Abdulhalim said that other countries to UN also protested the way adopted for granting the company the tender He added that the Secretariat forwarded the protest to the concerned UN fifth committee assigned to arrange financial for the hybrid operation.