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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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ICC and eastern Sudan crimes. By Abu Amna. *Sudan Tribune*.24/08/2008. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-08-25DSIA-7HUMEP>

Bashir's threat to expel UNAMID: the language UN understands – article (El-Intibaha)

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

42 IDPs killed, 104 wounded in Kalma camp, UN says the incidents threat to IDPs security

Local dailies of today reported that tens of IDPs have been killed and many others wounded in a clash yesterday with police in Kalma camp in South Darfur State. A source told Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper that 42 persons have been killed and 104 others wounded among them organized forces personnel. The source said the security forces seized large quantities of arms in the camp and a number of suspects were apprehended. A statement issued by the Security Committee of the State said UNAMID was informed before the security force headed for the camp.

UN press release said the incidents constituted serious threat to security and safety of the IDPs in the camp and urged police and the organized forces to exercise self-restraint and ensure the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to evacuate the wounded.

According to UNAMID, the organized forces came to the camp aboard 60 vehicles looking for arms within the camp and they were in possession of a search warrant.

South Darfur State security committee issues statement on incidents at Kalma camp

SUNA stated that the Security Committee of South Darfur State Monday issued a statement on the incidents that occurred Monday morning in Kalma displaced camp in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. The committee explained that a police force was fired at by elements from inside Kalma camp wounding five policemen so they were compelled to respond but not more than seven citizens at the displaced camp were injured.

The Security Committee said the police force moved in early Monday after getting search permit from UNAMID forces to Kalma displaced camp which became a harbour for outlaws, armed robbers and rebel movements who have been instigating the displaced citizens and using the camp for holding their meetings and hoarding different types of weapons, ammunitions, explosives, in addition to drugs and stolen properties.

The statement said that the police force decided to enter Kalma camp after receiving confirmed information about arrival of big quantities of weapons into the camp with the aim to stage subversive acts and attacks against the government forces and to carry out physical liquidation. The committee said that the police force was met with a strong resistance from IDPs who were incited to put barricades and to move in the streets, and even to be used by the attackers as human shields. The Security Committee of South Darfur said the camp has been a serious threat to the displaced people, the citizens in general, Nyala city and its international airport and suburbs as well as the Nyala - Al-De'ain road and the important railway line.

The Security Committee stated in its statement the police force will remain in its place till it enters the camp to collect the weapons and prevent the rebels from getting inside the camp to threaten the displaced lives and to obstruct the authorities to apply the rule of law.

We are capable of overcoming crises – Bashir tells graduation ceremony

Al-Rai Al-Aam quoted President Bashir as saying that the country was capable of overcoming domestic and foreign crises fomented by enemies abroad. The President was addressing a graduation ceremony of SAF Staff College.

“We are determined to continue building peace despite insistence of enemies to continue supporting armed movement, incite sedition and instigate people to break the law,” he said.

Parliament intervenes to contain differences between Messeriya and Rizeigat

Al-Sahafa carried a report stating that the Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has accused elements, he did not name, of sowing seeds of sedition between the Messeriya and Rizeigat. A broad meeting held yesterday at the Parliament premises decided to dispatch a popular delegation to the site of clashes to appease the two sides and to compile a detailed report of the situation.

The participants urged the federal government to engage in efforts to address the problem.

NCP criticizes Pagan Amum’s statement in America calling for dealing with ICC

Al-Rai Al-Aam said that the NCP criticized yesterday the statements made by Cabinet Minister Pagan Amum at a symposium in Washington where he called on the NCP to deal with the ICC. According to the newspaper, Pagan said apprehension of President Bashir by ICC would not affect implementation of the peace agreement.

“Amum’ statements confirm the presence within SPLM of elements who are not keen for peace and are seeking to sabotage partnership with NCP,” NCP leader Mandour Al Mahdi reacted to Amum’s statement. Pagan Amum statements are inconsistent with SPLM position that rejects ICC allegations, he said.

Pagan Amum said that nothing would happen to the CPA if Bashir was apprehended pointing out that the death of John Garang had no negative impact on the CPA. He said he wanted to appear before an investigation committee to prove that the state is “failed and corrupt” but SPLM leadership told him not to do that.

We will contest presidential elections – says southern political parties alliance

The Citizen reported that an alliance of southern Sudan political parties would declare a presidential candidate in January to run for elections. However, the parties want SPLM to make its presidential candidate public first.

In a press statement yesterday, the Secretary of Information Gordon Buay said his party was calling upon SPLM not to delay announcement of candidacy of its presidential contender.

He said that the Southern Sudan Political Alliance has nearly finalized its modalities and structures. This Alliance of seven parties would declare by January their candidate for the presidency in the South.

Websites/International Headlines

UN alarmed at reports that Sudanese police attack displaced camp in South Darfur

(UN News Centre) 25 August 2008 – The United Nations has voiced grave concern over reports that Sudanese police vehicles today surrounded a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Darfur and that civilians were killed during subsequent attacks inside the camp.

“Such actions severely threaten the safety and security of civilians, who have a right to protection under international humanitarian law,” UN Deputy spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters today in New York as she urged restraint.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan has called for the immediate establishment of a humanitarian corridor at the Kalma camp, which is home to about 80,000 IDPs, so that the injured may be evacuated.

The joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has sent police and military patrols to Kalma to confirm the details of the incident and provide any assistance needed.

Ms. Okabe added that the mission’s leadership is extremely concerned by today’s incident, stressing that the circumstances will be investigated and the entire situation is being closely monitored.

UNAMID has also reported banditry by Janjaweed militiamen at two IDP camps in West Darfur state and inter-tribal clashes in a South Darfur village.

The mission has been in place in Darfur since the start of the year in a bid to try to quell the deadly fighting and humanitarian suffering that has afflicted the impoverished Sudanese region since 2003.

Darfur refugee chiefs in Chad hail ICC move against Sudan president

(Sudan Tribune) – The “Omdas” (leaders) at a Darfur refugee camp in Chad gave their strong backing to the indictment of the Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC) last month.

“We support the decision of the International Court’s prosecutor, Ocampo” chiefs at the Goz-Amir camp said in a letter sent to the ICC earlier this month.

The letter obtained by Sudan Tribune was signed by six of the camp’s leaders who called for the “immediate” arrest of Al-Bashir.

“Any delay in arresting Al-Bashir will cause more acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing and rape” they said in the letter.

The camp chiefs also deplored requests by the Arab League and African Union to freeze Al-Bashir’s indictment.

“We, the refugees and displaced persons, reject the demands of the African Union and the Arab League, who are traitors to the Darfur people” they said.

The letter also outlined a number of other requests from the international community that includes disarming the Janjaweed militias, deploying international peacekeepers to replace African troops, expelling foreign population who settled in their lands and compensation.

The Darfur displaced leaders called for the establishment of secondary schools in the camps.

“We need secondary schools. Our children are only given schooling up to 8th grade. If they are uneducated this means there will be more war in the future”.

Goz Amir Camp in Eastern Chad is the home for around 19,000 Sudanese refugees who fled violence in the neighboring Darfur region.

US calls for investigation into Darfur IDP camp massacre

(Sudan Tribune) – The US condemned the attack by Sudanese forces on a refugee camp in South Darfur during dawn hours today.

“Attacks on vulnerable populations in Sudan are deplorable and violate international law” the US State department Deputy spokesman Robert Wood said in a statement today.

Scores of people were killed today and many more injured when hundreds of Sudanese soldiers and security officers entered Kalma camp early yesterday morning and opened fire.

The Sudanese government said they were fired upon prompting response but camp residents deny the claim.

Washington accused Khartoum of indiscriminately firing at the IDP’s and reminded parties to Darfur conflict “of their commitment to peace under the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)”.

“We call on the Government of Sudan to thoroughly investigate this incident and ensure that such actions are not repeated” the US said.

Sudanese forces kill 86 people at Kalama camps – IDP’s

(Sudan Tribune) – Sudanese troops today attacked the largest displaced camp located in South Darfur leaving scores dead and many more injured.

An IDP representative told Sudan Tribune today that 86 people were killed and 221 wounded. However other put the death figures between 50 and 122.

Monday’s attack is the fifth of its kind against Kalma camp which is the home of more than 90,000 people who fled their villages following Sudanese army and militias assaults during five years of conflict in the war ravaged region.

The local authorities insist that the Kalma camp is source of crimes, banditry, weapons caches and rebel groups.

But IDP’s say that Khartoum is anxious to disband a camp that has become a symbol “for crimes perpetrated by the government in the last five years”.

Hussein Abu-Sharati, the representative of the Darfur refugees and internally displaced people in Darfur camps, told Sudan Tribune late this evening that 86 people mostly children, women

and elders were killed in today's assault.

Abu-Sharati who described today's massacre as "genocide" denied the existence of any armed groups inside the camp who shot fire at Sudanese troops.

"Any one who dares to say that there was armed confrontation with the army is colluding in what happened today" he said angrily.

"The peaceful demonstration that took place today is the only means to protest against the daily oppression practiced against the refugees, and the clearest proof to what I say" Abu-Sharati said.

A spokesman for Sudanese troops told Reuters that an army search party was fired on from inside the camp.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) released an official statement issued by the South Darfur Security Commission speaking about elements that fired on the regular troops injuring five soldiers. The statement said that only 7 IDP's were wounded.

The Aid group Médecins Sans Frontières said that at least 65 people — more than half of them women and children — were treated at its Kalma clinic after being injured in the shooting.

The Sudanese authorities claimed to have received reliable intel about weapons smuggled recently into Kalma camp which is at a strategic position because of its proximity to the Nyala airport and railways

"Large quantities of weapons have been brought to the camps with the intention to carry out sabotage operations targeting government troops" the statement read.

Confusion still surrounds the death toll in the camp with various sources giving both higher and lower figures.

Abu-Sharati asserts he has a list of 86 people killed during the attack while Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur put the figure at 122.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson Ahmed Hussein said that 70 lost their lives.

Noureddine Mezni, spokesperson for the joint UN/African Union UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur, said that Sudanese police had shown peacekeepers a search warrant authorizing them to enter Kalma camp to search for weapons and "possible wanted persons".

The UN reacted cautiously and expressed "grave concern at the incident".

"Such actions severely threaten the safety and security of civilians, who have a right to protection under international humanitarian law" UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters today in New York.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Ameerah Haq has called for the immediate establishment of a humanitarian corridor at the camp.

Today's attack comes more than a month after the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced in mid-July that he requested an arrest warrant for Al-Bashir.

Ocampo filed 10 charges: three counts of genocide, five of crimes against humanity and two of murder and accused Al-Bashir of masterminding a campaign to get rid of the African tribes in

Darfur; Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa.

Most of the Kalma camp residents are from the Fur tribe.

The incident may turn into a public relations nightmare for the Sudanese government which has been trying to demonstrate to the world its seriousness in pursuing peace in Darfur in order to counter the ICC move.

Darfur rebels react angrily to Khartoum attack on displaced persons camp

(Sudan Tribune) – Darfur rebel groups expressed outrage at an attack by Sudanese government soldiers and security officers on the largest displaced camp located in South Darfur leaving scores dead and many more injured.

“This is genocide happening before our eyes. The international community must live up to its responsibility and protect the civilians” the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson Ahmed Hussein told Sudan Tribune by phone.

“We cannot stand with our hands tied behind our backs while our people are being slaughtered” he said.

The Sudanese authorities justified the raid by claiming to have received reliable intelligence about weapons smuggled recently into Kalma camp which is at a strategic position because of its proximity to the Nyala airport and railways,

However Hussein dismissed the government’s statements and said that the plan was to disband the camp and remove its inhabitants.

“This is a plan orchestrated at the highest levels of government including Al-Bashir personally. Al-Bashir had promised last year to make the Darfur displaced go home before the UNAMID forces arrive in Darfur” Hussein said.

“This is a very sad day for all of us” he added.

Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur said he condemns the attack “in the strongest possible terms”.

Al-Nur accused the UNAMID forces of “failing to fulfill their duties to protect the Darfuri people”. The SLM chief echoed Hussein’s remarks and said that Khartoum is deliberately targeting Darfur displaced population.

“These people fled the killings to these camps for safety after they lost everything. The government’s final solution is to kill them right where they are” he said. “The genocide campaign by Khartoum continues” Al-Nur stressed.

Ahmed Abdel Shafie, a commander in another faction of Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) told AFP that Khartoum wants to disband IDP camps near main towns to push the conflict under the carpet after the ICC move.

Salva Kiir is SPLM’s candidate for Sudan’s president post – Amum

(Sudan Tribune) — Pagan Amum the Secretary General of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement dismissed reports saying that First Vice-President and SPLM Chairman, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, would not run for Sudan’s president post.

"The First Vice President, President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Lt Gen. Salva Kiir Mayadrit is the sole SPLM candidate for the presidency election" said Amum from Washington in a statement to Ajas Al-Hurriya to be published in its edition of tomorrow.

This denial comes after statements by some SPLM officials saying that the Political Bureau of the party didn't yet adopt a decision about who would be the SPLM candidate for the presidency in 2009 election.

However, the second convention of the SPLM held last May in Juba adopted a resolution that the party leader, Salva Kiir Mayadrit should contend for the presidency of the republic next year.

New mediator calls for ceasefire in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) — Darfur joint chief mediator, Djibril Bassolé, called on the government and rebel movements to observe a comprehensive ceasefire in the war-torn region.

The new peace mediator who arrived Monday to Khartoum to begin officially his duties, said it is a necessary step before to start peace process.

"Our concern now is to invite everyone to stop shooting" the joint peace mediator said upon his arrival to Khartoum airport today evening.

Asked about the features of his plan to end Darfur crisis in the coming period, Bassolé said it was too early now to talk about a peace plan.

He stressed he came just to work from within Darfur. Bassolé will be based in El-Fasher, North Darfur state.

He also underlined that a plan of action to achieve peace in Darfur is the responsibility of all the concerned parties as the cooperation of all will ensure the success of his mission
Before his arrival Bassolé met with the three main rebel groups in London, New York and Paris.

Sudan forces surround Darfur camp after raid - rebels

(Reuters) - Sudanese forces who killed dozens of residents of a camp for displaced persons in Darfur in a raid on Monday were massing outside the camp again on Tuesday, rebels and residents said.

Residents of South Darfur's Kalma camp told Reuters they feared government forces were preparing to make a second attempt to force their way into the settlement.

Kalma, home to 90,000 people forced out of their homes by fighting in west Sudan's desert Darfur region since rebellion broke out more than five years ago, has long been a flashpoint.

Sudanese authorities have launched a number of failed attempts to seize arms from the camp in the past, claiming rebels and bandits were using it as a base.

Kalma resident Omar Ali Omar Suleiman told Reuters Sudanese police and soldiers had built up their positions around the camp overnight. "They are gathering outside. We think they will try to come in again," he said.

"We now know 46 persons have died and 118 were injured" in Monday's clash, he said.

Ahmed Abdel Shafie, leader of a rebel Sudan Liberation Army faction, said 60 seriously injured residents had been evacuated to hospital in nearby Nyala, while many other casualties were still in the camp.

But the state SUNA news agency said that armed Kalma residents had started the fighting when police moved in to seize weapons, and that only seven camp residents had been injured.

SUNA issued a statement from South Darfur state's Security Committee saying that no one had been killed in the clashes, but five police officers and seven residents had been injured.

The officers, who moved in after receiving reports that a large number of weapons had been delivered to Kalma, were "met with strong resistance from the instigated and mobilized displaced citizens who were incited to put barricades and to move in the streets," SUNA reported.

Police will hold their positions outside the camp until the collection of the "stockpiled weapons" was complete, it added.

Shafie, of the LRA faction, said government forces had blocked the road out of the camp. "There is no one going in or out. The situation is very bad with the rains, and food is running out. They are surrounding the camp."

He said government agents inside the camp, not residents, had started the fighting. "They infiltrated Kalma to provoke the residents and justify their own atrocities," he said. Camp residents and Darfur rebels have accused the government of trying to clear the camp to force residents to return to their homes under a government resettlement plan.

The raid came at a time of heightened tension in Darfur after the International Criminal Court moved to indict President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for genocide in the remote western region.

Darfur rebels, who back the ICC move, have accused Khartoum of carrying out a string of attacks and bombings in the region in an attempt to gain territory before negotiations with the joint U.N./African Union mediator for Darfur Djibril Bassole.

International experts say 200,000 people have been killed and more than 2.5 million driven from their homes by the fighting in Darfur. Khartoum puts the death count at 10,000.

Commentaries

ICC and eastern Sudan crimes. By Abu Amna. *Sudan Tribune*.24/08/2008.
(use the following link) <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-08-25DSIA-7HUMEP>

Bashir's threat to expel UNAMID: the language UN understands
(by: Hassan Abdul Hamid in *Al-Intibaha* newspaper)

When you pass by UN troops HQs on Obeid Khatim Street, you see them adding new buildings, suggesting that they are not leaving the country in the near future. This is the case with UN in most of the countries of the world. They neither achieve peace nor depart the country that is plagued with their presence. Their departure depends on clearance of the western powers which contributed towards their advent to the Sudan.

ICC indictment brought about a new reality in the Sudan, entailing reconsideration of the presence of these troops on our soil. The argument is simple; the Security Council which referred the case is part of UNGA so there is no need for the troops it sent to the Sudan. President Bashir's threat to expel the hybrid troops should be taken seriously. The threat should be followed by practical steps such as re-opening of camps to train fighters and to revive the spirit of Jihad. I see no reason to give up Jihad and to bring up the youths accordingly to send a message to the world, particularly to those in our midst, that we are ready.