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COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

2012-05-02 UNAMID Morning Media Monitoring

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Taha Meets Wali of South Darfur State

Khartoum, May 1 (SUNA) - First Vice-President of the Republic, Chairman of the High Committee for Mobilization, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha met Tuesday at the Republican Palace, the Wali of South Darfur State, Mammad Ismail Hammad who briefed him on the level of mobilization and the security situations in the State.

Hammad said in press statements that the meeting touched on the security situation in the borders of the state and the repeated aggressions by the SPLA forces supported by the armed mercenaries and Darfur movements.

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He described the situation in the state as stable, adding that the state has mobilized more than 3000 Mujahid in support of the Armed Force.

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Sudan and Arab League Sign Contracts to Establish 12 Villages at Six Million Dollar Cost

Khartoum, May 1 (SUNA) - Sudan and the Arab League have signed in Khartoum contracts on the Arab pledges to implement 12 villages in Darfur states at the cost of six million dollars through funding from the Arab League.

The contracts were signed by the Commissioner General for Humanitarian Aid, Dr. Suleiman Abdul-Rahman, for Sudan and Ambassador Salah Halima, the envoy of the Arab League to Sudan.

Following the meeting, Dr. Abdul-Rahman said that the housing complexes at villages include health, educational, health and electricity facilities as well as mosques and schools, with the aim to provide suitable atmosphere for the stability of the displaced people and refugees.

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South Darfur Governor Visits Soldiers Injured in Action

Sudan Vision 02 May 2012

Khartoum- Hamad Ismail, governor of South Darfur State, declared the commencement of arrangements in his state to launch the great mobilization to ensure stability and deter any aggression against the country.

The governor, accompanied by a high level ministerial delegation from his state including the ministers of health, finance, and media, paid a visit to the soldiers injured in the battle field in Hagleig and Darfur, and he congratulated the Sudanese people on the victory achieved by the Sudanese Armed Forces in all the fronts.

He said that the Armed Forces have destroyed the Rebel Forces of the People's Army of Sudan in Um Dafoog, and retrieved the area of Kafan Dubai. He confirmed that the situation is stable in South Darfur.

He also commended the sacrifices and the heroic and victorious deeds of the Armed Forces and their defending the homeland, especially in Alradoo area, saying that he is going to meet with the officials in the Ministry of Defense to discuss the violations that took place by the aggressors.

He explained that he put forth a recommendation to the High Commander of the Armed Forces to reward Major Mohammed Naji Abeid the Medallion of Valor for his efforts and persistence in deterring the aggression of the army of South Sudan and the Rebel Movements on Alradoo area.

The governor pledged that Sudan is not going to be harmed through the gate South Darfur, especially that it is a state neighboring South Sudan and Central African Republic.

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Native leaders denounce government war mobilisation

Radio Dabanga, South Kordofan 1 May

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Native administration representatives of the Misseriya and Nuba in South Kordofan have denounced governor Ahmed Haroun's statement, ordering Sudanese soldiers to kill war hostages.

The representatives also demanded that citizens of South Kordofan do not respond to the government's mobilisation for war.

Sultan Khamis Soba told Radio Dabanga that Nuba and Misseriya of Dilling met and agreed to settle issues in the area, allowing a grounding for common interests.

He added that they visited most Misseriya and Nuba villages, sat down with residents and agreed that the ongoing war is a war of the ruling National Congress Party in which they have no interest or part to play.

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Opposition parties reject Bashir's declaration of emergency law

Radio Dabanga, Khartoum 1 May

The Sudanese opposition parties have rejected president Bashir's declaration of a state of emergency along the border with South Sudan and his vice president's order to shoot anyone delivering humanitarian to the area.

The Umma Party and the Popular Congress Party said establishing special courts is unconstitutional and against international conventions on human rights ratified by Sudan, as well as being destructive to the relationship between the two countries.

The parties call on the international community to intervene to protect civilians subject to arbitrary killing and arrest outside of the law.

Mariam Al Sadig of the Umma Party called this latest move a mistake pointing out that Sudanese nomadic tribes spend around eight months a year in South Sudanese territory.

She added that the border areas have the most livestock in Africa and the Arab world, and that the tribes continually move between the Sudan and South Sudan.

The secretary of political affairs for the Popular Congress Party, Kamal Omar Abdel Salam also told Radio Dabanga that the declaration of emergency law will surely endanger citizens in the border areas, subjecting them to extrajudicial murder and arrests.

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Sudan Agrees in Principle to AUPSC Roadmap

Sudan Vision 02 May 2012

Khartoum – The Sudanese Government has agreed in principle to the roadmap worked out by the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) to settle differences between Khartoum and Juba.

Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti sent a written message to AU Commission Chairperson, Jean Ping, expressing Sudan Government's welcome of the AU efforts and positive contributions to address disputes between Sudan and South Sudan, Spokesperson of Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Obeid

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Murawah, has said.

Murawah reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening efforts aiming at achieving sustainable peace and security within the regional and bilateral framework.

The Spokesperson said the message included many observations about the AUPSC's roadmap and affirmed the Sudanese Government's acceptance of the roadmap despite repeated atrocities by South Sudan against some territories.

According to Murawah, the message indicated South Sudan's continued aggression against Sudanese territories, citing SPLA occupation of a village in Bahr el Arab which is lying north of 1.1.1956 borderline which is not a disputed territory and also on 29 April the SPLA occupied Kefan Dibi which is a contested border area. On 30 April, the SPLA occupied the contested area of Kefia Kinji.

The message went on to say that the two divisions, 9th and 10th, continue their hostile military acts in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile regions as part of plan to destabilize security and stability of the borderline with the help of mercenaries from Darfur movements.

The Spokesperson said the Foreign Minister's message to Jean Ping confirmed that South Sudan and its army are brazenly working to expand aggression to impose fait accompli. The message affirmed Sudan's determination to prevent invaders and occupiers from imposing their will by force.

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UN Council aims for Wednesday vote on Sudan crisis

UNITED NATIONS, May 2, 2012 (AFP) - The UN Security Council hopes to vote Wednesday on a resolution that could threaten Sudan and South Sudan with sanctions if they do not stop fighting, diplomats said.

China and Russia, veto-wielding permanent members, are however leading resistance to any warning of international action against the rival countries, which many fear are headed for all-out war.

Sudan on Tuesday warned its southern neighbour, which split away last year, over widening "aggression" as the South alleged fresh clashes despite an African Union peace initiative in the oil-fueled conflict.

Khartoum charged that "South Sudan and its army are working to widen the aggression and occupy some disputed points and areas by force. Sudan cannot allow the occupying troops to impose their power."

More than a week ago South Sudanese soldiers said they had completed a withdrawal from Sudan's main oil region of Heglig, which they occupied for 10 days, while Sudan launched air strikes across the border.

In New York, a resolution drawn up by the United States calls on the two countries to "immediately cease all hostilities" and withdraw troops to their own territory, in line with the call made by the African Union.

The resolution would threaten "additional measures" under Article 41 of the UN Charter, which allows for non-military sanctions.

China, which has strong trade ties with both Sudan and South Sudan, and Russia traditionally oppose warnings of sanctions. And the resolution could change before any vote, diplomats told AFP.

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"This time it is less the Russians and more the Chinese," one senior Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "If they keep on not liking it, they might abstain. I don't think they will veto."

China is more likely to accept the resolution as the request for possible sanctions has come from the African Union.

"It is much more difficult for the Chinese and Russians to say no to an AU request than a Western plan," the envoy added.

Under the resolution, the two countries would have two weeks to "unconditionally" start talks under AU mediation on borders and sharing oil revenues, and they would have three months to conclude an accord.

UN leader Ban Ki-moon would have to report to the Security Council every two weeks on the crisis.

China and Russia are nervous even though no automatic sanctions are mentioned, diplomats said. "They oppose even the mention of Article 41," one diplomat told AFP.

Speaking after talks with Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti in Moscow on Monday, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said his country was ready to support the resolution.

"It may include measures of economic pressure. But I would repeat that this is not an automatic decision, but only an intention depending on how the resolution is implemented," he told reporters.

Sudan and South Sudan have kept trading accusations following the Heglig clashes, the most serious in a month of border confrontations.

Sudan's foreign ministry said South Sudanese troops had on Monday occupied a disputed area on the border of Sudan's Darfur and South Sudan's Western Bahr el-Ghazal state.

That came a day after the South took over another disputed point on the Darfur border, the ministry added.

It said the South has "a plan to continue the war and disturb peace and security and stability along the border between Sudan and South Sudan."

Each side denies backing rebels on the other's territory in a proxy war after failing to settle outstanding issues over contested territory, oil revenues and borders.

The South became independent last July after an overwhelming "yes" vote under a 2005 peace deal that ended a 22-year civil war.

On Tuesday, the South's army said Sudanese troops and allied militias clashed with South Sudanese troops along the disputed border.

"Sudanese forces, militias and mercenaries attacked our positions in Hofra in the oil region of Unity state," Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said, adding that Southern troops had "repulsed the attackers" but were preparing for another expected assault from Sudan.

It was not possible to independently verify the situation.

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The British embassy, meanwhile, said Tuesday that it had met with one of its citizens allegedly detained by Sudan's army along the tense southern border and that he was in good condition.

Chris Fielding, the Briton, has been held for at least three days along with Norwegian John Sorbo, South African Thabo Siave and an unidentified South Sudanese.

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China, Russia resist West's push to threaten Sudan, S.Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, May 1 (Reuters) - China and Russia are resisting a Western push for the U.N. Security Council to threaten Sudan and South Sudan with sanctions if the two countries fail to comply with demands to halt their escalating conflict, U.N. envoys said on Tuesday.

The U.N. negotiations on Sudan and South Sudan, former civil war foes that split when the south seceded last year, follow weeks of border fighting that have raised fears Khartoum and Juba could launch an all-out war, after failing to resolve a string of disputes over oil revenues and border demarcation.

Delegates from the five permanent members of the Security Council and temporary member South Africa met on Monday for several hours at the U.S. mission in New York to try to reach an agreement on amending a U.S.-drafted resolution on the two Sudans, Western envoys told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The United States circulated to the 15-nation council on Monday a revised draft resolution that threatens both Sudan and South Sudan with "additional measures" under Article 41 of the U.N. charter, which allows the council to impose economic and diplomatic sanctions on countries that ignore its decisions.

"The draft will probably change before it goes to a vote," a diplomat told Reuters. "China doesn't want any mention of Article 41."

Diplomats said the council was planning to put the draft resolution to a vote on Wednesday, though it was likely to undergo further changes before then. They said the United States and European council members did not want to remove the reference to Article 41 but would be open to a compromise.

"In the end there will be some kind of settlement on the issue," a Western diplomat said.

Beijing, which has close trade relations with both Khartoum and Juba, has traditionally acted as Sudan's protector on the council and for years has shielded it from U.S. and European calls for sanctions due to its handling of conflicts in its western Darfur region and elsewhere in the country.

RUSSIA BACKS CHINA

Russia is supporting China's push to water down the resolution and also dislikes the idea of mentioning Article 41 in the resolution, council diplomats said. Article 41 does not authorize military intervention.

The African Union's Peace and Security Council last week urged both sides to cease hostilities and withdraw troops from disputed areas, and warned it would issue its own binding rulings if they failed to strike deals on a string of disputes within three months.

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It also asked the U.N. Security Council to pass a legally binding resolution to demand that Khartoum and Juba comply with the AU declaration.

It will be "much more difficult for the Chinese and Russians to say no to something requested by the African Union," a diplomat said.

Under the latest U.S. draft, as with two previous versions, the council would have to pass a new resolution to impose sanctions on either Khartoum or Juba for not ending hostilities.

Such sanctions typically include an arms embargo, asset freezes and travel bans.

The United States made an attempt to soften the language in the latest draft. The first version, obtained by Reuters, warned Khartoum and Juba of "its determination, in the event that one or both of the parties have not complied, to take appropriate additional measures under Article 41 of the (U.N.) Charter."

The latest version, also obtained by Reuters, softens it by speaking of the council's "intention" to take steps under Article 41 in the event of non-compliance.

China and Russia are traditionally reluctant to impose sanctions on any nation, calling them counterproductive.

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Sudan warns South as fresh clashes alleged

KHARTOUM, May 1, 2012 (AFP) - Sudan warned its Southern neighbour on Tuesday over widening "aggression" as the South alleged fresh clashes despite an African Union peace initiative.

"The government of Sudan confirms that South Sudan and its army are working to widen the aggression and occupy some disputed points and areas by force," Khartoum's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Sudan cannot allow the occupying troops to impose their power."

The statement came more than a week after South Sudanese soldiers said they had completed a withdrawal from Sudan's main oil region of Heglig, which they occupied for 10 days in a move that coincided with Sudanese air strikes across the border in South Sudan.

Sudan's military said it forced the Southerners out of Heglig.

It was the most serious fighting in a month of border clashes and raised fears of wider war.

Allegations of clashes have continued even after the Heglig occupation ended.

In its statement, the foreign ministry said South Sudanese troops on Monday occupied a disputed area on the border of Sudan's Darfur and South Sudan's Western Bahr el-Ghazal state.

This came a day after the South took over another disputed point on the Darfur border, the ministry added.

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It said the South has "a plan to continue the war and disturb peace and security and stability along the border between Sudan and South Sudan."

Each side denies backing rebels on the other's territory in a proxy war after failing to settle outstanding issues over contested territory, oil revenues and borders.

The South became independent last July after an overwhelming "yes" vote under a 2005 peace deal that ended a 22-year civil war.

On Tuesday, the South's army said Sudanese troops and allied militias clashed with South Sudanese troops along the disputed border.

"Sudanese forces, militias and mercenaries attacked our positions in Hofra in the oil region of Unity state," Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said.

It was not possible to independently verify the situation.

Southern troops "repulsed the attackers" and captured three trucks, Aguer said, adding soldiers were preparing for an assault believed planned by Sudan.

South Sudanese youth in the north have been reported kidnapped by armed South Sudanese gangs in Sudan and sent to fight in the border zone, including in Heglig, South Sudan's ambassador told AFP in an interview.

Last week the UN Security Council started talks on a resolution that could allow sanctions against Sudan and South Sudan if they do not meet African Union (AU) demands to end their border clashes which began in late March.

The AU's security organ urged both sides to reach a deal within three months on oil and citizenship issues, pull forces from the contested Abyei region and agree on a demarcated border.

Among other measures, the roadmap sought an immediate cessation of all hostilities including aerial bombardments, withdrawal of troops from each other's territory and an end to backing for rebel groups.

Sudan on Sunday notified the AU that it agreed to the roadmap, the foreign ministry said in its statement on Tuesday.

On Saturday, the South's government said it was ready to pull its police out of Abyei to meet the AU demands.

The British embassy, meanwhile, said Tuesday that it had met with one of its citizens allegedly detained by Sudan's army along the tense southern border and he was in good condition.

Chris Fielding, the Briton, has been held for at least three days along with Norwegian John Sorbo, South African Thabo Siave and an unidentified South Sudanese.

The UN expressed concern after the governor of Sudan's White Nile state declared thousands of South Sudanese a security risk and ordered them to leave by Saturday the way-station of Kosti, south of Khartoum.

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They have been encamped there waiting for transport to the South.

"As those awaiting repatriation from Kosti ... are in a vulnerable position and lack many basic services including adequate shelter, vital and quick collaboration is needed from Sudan and South Sudan to alleviate the hardship of those stranded", said Ali Al Zaatari, the United Nations resident representative and humanitarian coordinator.

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South Sudan: 27 Sudan soldiers killed in clashes

Source: AP Online Regional - Africa Date: May 01, 2012

JUBA, South Sudan -- South Sudan's army said Tuesday it killed 27 soldiers from Sudan's armed forces during a clash along the countries' contested border.

South Sudan's military spokesman Col. Philip Aguer said the fighting took place in Hofra along the road to South Sudan's Unity State capital, Bentiu.

He said three South Sudanese soldiers were killed and two others wounded after soldiers for the south intercepted three Sudanese trucks mounted with machine guns traveling to positions held by South Sudan's soldiers.

"They were trying to surprise the SPLA, but we had been monitoring their preparations for the last three days," said Aguer. The SPLA is an acronym for South Sudan's military.

He said South Sudan's forces killed 27 soldiers, including the Sudanese major leading the attack, before driving the trucks back across the border.

This is the latest in a steady stream of confrontations between the two forces since South Sudan left the oil-rich and disputed town of Heglig more than 10 days ago. South Sudan had invaded Heglig, saying it belonged to the south. Sudan later retook the town; Sudanese forces say they pushed out the South Sudanese while South Sudan says its troops pulled out to avoid an all-out war. Sudan elevated the tension even further by bombing South Sudan.

Aguer said Sudan's military launched Tuesday's attacks from Heglig. Aguer said the SPLA forces only pursued the Sudanese troops "about 5 kilometers" from Hofra, and did not plan to immediately respond.

But he said South Sudan would retaliate if Sudan continued launching attacks from Heglig.

"This may be the first of many attacks," he said. "It has not reached that level, but definitely if they continue to advance toward Jau and Pariang, SPLA has the right."

The international community has condemned the fighting and has called for an end to the hostilities between the countries, but those calls have largely been ignored. The two nations' armies have continued to clash around positions at Teshwin and Panakuac near the disputed border, and Sudanese jet fighters have repeatedly dropped bombs inside Unity State, including on Bentiu.

South Sudan split from Sudan in July last year, but the two countries have yet to agree on border demarcation and divvying up oil revenues and resources.

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Khartoum's aggression motivated by resources - Machar

Sudan Tribune

May 2, 2012 (JUBA) – Khartoum's aggression against South Sudan, according to its vice president, Riek Machar, is driven by the greed.

Machar said Khartoum intends to annex areas of South Sudan which are rich in resources.

Juba and Khartoum are embroiled in an escalating military conflict in their borderlands.

The accusations were made at a conference organised by the Popular Committee for National Mobilization in Support of the Army in Juba on Tuesday.

Machar reiterated Juba's claim that the oil-rich Heglig area is part of South Sudan, showing an unidentified map to the audience by way of proof. Khartoum claims Heglig is part of its territory which was invaded by the South Sudan army (SPLA).

Fighting between SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Heglig began around the end of March.

The SPLA claimed it was responding to SAF air and ground attacks in Unity state and repelled them all the way to Heglig. SAF claims the attack was unprovoked. Both sides claim the other has damaged the oil infrastructure in the area.

Machar claimed that Khartoum's attempted annexing of Heglig began in 2004 when the adviser to the president of Sudan, Nafie Ali Nafie, directed the former governor of Unity state, Joseph Nguen Monytil, to not include Heglig as part of Unity state, which Monytil resisted.

Machar reiterated Juba's position; that it is prepared for a peaceful resolution to the conflict but has a right to self-defence.

He also claimed Juba has a right to liberate the territories it considers to be occupied by SAF, including Heglig.

Machar denied Khartoum's claim that the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled that Heglig is within its borders.

He also accused Khartoum of not wanting the conduct of a referendum which was scheduled to take place in Abyei; another oil-producing region. The referendum, which was to afford residents of the area the right to vote on the statehood, was scheduled for January 2011, is yet to take place.

Despite claims that the SPLA incurred heavy loses in its conflict with SAF in Heglig, Machar said Juba's forces withdrew in response to the calls of the international community.

SPLA claims to have captured equipment, including more than 120 vehicles and a large volume of fuel, from the area on April 20.

Post-independence talks between the two nations, on issues including border demarcation, broke down on March 26 when Kiir claimed that the military escalation was provoked by SAF's coordinated aerial attacks on Jau and Pan Akuach followed by a ground forces assault against another area called Teshwin.

Machar, who is also the chairman of the National Mobilization Committee, added that South Sudan previously ignored Sudan's encroachment and aggression in the run up to the referendum on South Sudanese independence, in order for it run smoothly.

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UNMISS Has Mandate to Protect Civilians but No Means - Hilde F. Johnson

Juba, May 01, 2012 (The Citizen/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- United Nations Mission in South Sudan UNMISS has a mandate in the Chapter VII to protect civilians in South Sudan but it does not have the means to do so.

This was according to Special Representative of the Secretary General Hilde F. Johnson. "I have the mandate to protect civilians but I don't have the means to protect them against aerial bombardments because that would need anti-aircraft missiles," she told The Citizen senior reporters in her office yesterday.

Her comment on why they are not protecting South Sudanese from the attacks around the border areas is that they are in a situation of air attacks and the only way is to either make Khartoum stop doing it or to use military assets to stop the attacks.

"The only way to stop this is either to make Khartoum stop doing it or to use the military assets which we don't have," she explained.

But according to her, there is no where in this world the Security Council has provided a peace keeping mission with anti-aircraft missiles because it is not seen as a way of keeping peace.

In addition, when UNMISS was established it was to support the new independent country under the expectations that there would be a peaceful development that would sort out the different issues with the CPA.

Though people did not think that it would go smoothly, at least the assumption was this mission was here to support the new state and not the issues between the South and the North.

At the same time, a border monitoring mission has been decided by the UN Security Council in December 2011. This body is supposed to be jointly supported by Sudan and South Sudan and would include international observers; it would be under the UN and in fact under the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

According to Johnson it is the monitoring mission of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Abyei which will be in charge of the border monitoring mission.

The establishment of this body was as a result of a request made by both Sudan and the South Sudan to the Security Council which led to the establishment of UNISFA for this mission.

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However, the UN is now waiting for a green light from both sides which they have not yet gotten. UNISFA is a force which is composed of Ethiopian army only.

Due to absence of this mission at the border areas, it has made it very difficult to monitor what is going on at the border hence the difficulty to reduce the tensions at the border. "So while there is a vacuum at the border the situation becomes more difficult and is escalated," she observed.

According to Johnson, UNMISS is only present in South Sudan territory and it is the UNISFA that is in the Abyei area that will be in charge of border monitoring.

Pointing out clearly, Johnson explained that there is a special envoy for the Secretary General Haile Menkarios who is in charge of the relations between Sudan and South Sudan and therefore she advised that if one wants the UN to do more in regard to current situation the right people to contact would be the Secretary General, the Special Envoy and the Security Council.

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Ethiopia sees a surge of Sudan's Blue Nile refugees in April - UN Sudan Tribune

May 2, 2012 (ADDIS ABABA) - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday that the fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile state has continued to drive more refugees flee to neighbouring Ethiopia.

UNHCR and the Ethiopian government have registered 29,494 Sudanese refugees in two camps (Tongo, Sherkole) and at a transit centre between June 2011 and 21 April 2012.

The UNHCR branch office in Addis Ababa told *Sudan Tribune* that Ethiopia has seen a surge in the number of new arrivals starting from the last week of March as fighting between Sudanese forces and the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) continue to displace civilians, mostly women and children.

April, however, has recorded further larger number of new arrivals in to border areas in Ethiopia, according to the UNHCR representative in Addis Ababa.

"In first three weeks of April (1-21), 2012, some 2,376 new arrivals were registered, compared to about 800 registered in March" Natalia Prokopchuk, UNHCR's Public Information Officer, told *Sudan Tribune*.

Despite the continued hostility in the troubled region, the Sudanese government claim that thousands of refugees have managed to return home from Ethiopia.

Last week, the Sudanese Media Center (SMC), which is widely believed to be run by the security services, reported that some 2,820 Blue Nile state refugees had returned home from Ethiopia after the governor of the state, Al Hadi Bushara visited Ethiopia where he consulted on ways of coordinating the return of Sudanese refugees to their original areas.

While there can be cases of spontaneous returns; however Prokopchuk said UNHCR doesn't facilitate any voluntary repatriation to Blue Nile state refugees at this moment.

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WFP Concerned About Impact of Border Fighting On Livelihoods

Juba, May 01, 2012 (United Nations World Food Programme/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) says that recent fighting at South Sudan's northern border is threatening to push more people of the region into hunger.

"The food security situation in the border states was already precarious," said WFP South Sudan Country Director Chris Nikoi. "Now the border clashes threaten to displace more people and disrupt already fragile livelihoods."

WFP is assisting a growing number of people affected by conflict in the border region. Activities include:

In the past week, WFP has assisted around 2,000 newly arrived refugees arriving at Yida in Unity State, and distributions are ongoing. Working with partners, WFP has been providing high-energy, fortified food bars to new arrivals. New arrivals receive a 15-day ration, then on registration the refugees receive full monthly rations according to the size of their families. Since the beginning of the month of April, WFP has fed about 20,000 refugees in Yida.

WFP is pre-positioning food as the rainy season begins and most roads become impassable. In Upper Nile and Unity States, WFP has prepositioned 14,000 metric tons of food, enough for 140,000 people for six months.

WFP is using its logistical expertise to help other humanitarian agencies overcome the challenges of establishing a humanitarian lifeline for the affected population. WFP has deployed trucks and two helicopters to deliver not just food but medical kits, shelter items, fuel and other assistance on behalf of the humanitarian community, to the remotest corners along South Sudan's northern border.

WFP recently transported people injured in the fighting to areas where they could access medical assistance. WFP has increased storage capacity in the border states for food and other items and has prepositioned mobile storage units in strategic locations to further increase the capacity if needed.

Additional WFP assistance includes: *Support to returnees - who have come back home to South Sudan from Sudan or elsewhere. Many more are expected to return this year.

Children under 5, pregnant women and nursing mothers who are suffering from, or vulnerable to, malnutrition. Vulnerable and severely food-insecure families especially in rural areas. WFP supports these through school meals and asset-creation projects.

In total, WFP plans to reach 2.7 million people in South Sudan this year under an Emergency Operation covering the border region and other areas.

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Foreign Affair Urges Sudan to Protect Lives of the Locals

Juba, May 01, 2012 (The Citizen/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Deputy Minister for Foreign affair and international cooperation after meeting Sudan charges D' affaires call on Sudan authorities to protect lives of South Sudanese nationals still waiting return home.

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"The situation of southerners there (Sudan) is becoming worrying to us" said Elia Nyamlell Wakason.

He added south Sudanese waiting return since last month when declared foreigners lives in concentrated camps are being mistreated by government in Khartoum.

The call for protection from ministry come day after the Sudanese governor of White state declared 5th of May the last day for south Sudanese to either formalized their status or leave Sudan and describes them as security and environment threats.

"We requested them to facilitate return of our people," appealed Deputy Minister complaining of restriction of Non Governmental organization entranced into Kosti after 5th of April by Sudan.

Nyamlell quoted Imam in Sudan during one of Friday prayers declaring that they does not wanted to see any southerner in Khartoum following border clashes with the new republic.

"It is Islamic declare war against our citizens," call out Deputy Minister saying such statement should not come from authorities there.

He also reported that authorities in Khartoum restrict South Sudan embassy staff in Khartoum access to ministry of foreign affair.

"We want this restriction lifted," he said thoughtfully adding that emergency need to be discussed and deal with.

Nyamlell added that they discuss with Sudan de affair Awadelkarim Elrayah Ballah immediate release of demines arrested by Khartoum and charged them to have military link and were spying for the southern troops in Heglig area.

"This people were operating in South Sudan," he continues saying Sudan has to respect mines workers.

He further said that among the discussed issues was continues trade between the two countries.

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Command of Joint Sudanese - Chadian Forces Transferred to Sudanese Side

Genaina, May 1 (SUNA) - Genaina city, the capital of West Darfur State, has witnessed a celebration marking transference of the command of the Joint Sudanese - Chadian forces to the Sudanese side in the fifth session.

The celebration was attended by the acting Wali (governor) of West Darfur State, the Governor of the Chadian Waday Region, representatives of the Sudanese and Chadian Ministers of Defence and diplomats.

The Commander of the Chadian Forces, Gen. Gumaa Mohamed Yousif, has addressed the festival expressing his appreciation of the fruitful cooperation between the two parties and the stand of the citizens in Sudan and Chad in boosting the joint forces' experiment.

He said that the experiment of the Joint Forces has surpassed the goal of keeping security at the joint

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Sudanese - Chadian border to the stage of providing development and social services to the citizens and facilitating the movement of citizens and trade convoys.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the Sudanese Force at the Joint Forces, Col. Fathal-Rahaman Abdalla Suleiman, also addressed the festival pointing to the major roles being played by the Joint Sudanese - Chadian Forces depending on the strong will of the two parties and the citizens' support.

He said that the Joint Forces were able to remove all the security threats at the Sudanese - Chadian border.

Col. Suleiman said that the security agreement signed between Sudan and Chad came as a fruit of the mutual confidence and cooperation between the Joint Sudanese and Chadian Forces.

The representative of the Chadian Minister of Defence, Gen. Zakaria Gogandi, has addressed the festival asserting that the Joint Forces' experiment has become a unique experiment followed by other countries in the world.

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Ghazi Al-Saddiq Appointed as Information Minister

Khartoum, May 1 (SUNA)- President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, has issued Republican Decrees appointing Ghazi Al-SaDdiq as the Minister of Information, and Hasabu Mohamed Abdul-Rahman as the Minister of Tourism, Archeology and Wildlife.

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