

U.N. urges Sudan to cooperate in any chemical weapons probe

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. peacekeeping chief called on the government of Sudan on Tuesday to cooperate with the international chemical weapons watchdog in any investigation of alleged chemical weapons use in the Darfur region.

Herve Ladsous told the U.N. Security Council that peacekeepers from the U.N.-African Union force in Darfur have been denied access to the area in Jebel Marra where Amnesty International alleged that at least 30 chemical attacks have taken place since January.

"We were very much alarmed by the allegations," Ladsous told reporters.

Sudan is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention banning the use of toxic chemicals.

Sudan's U.N. Mission said in an updated statement posted on its website Tuesday that the country does not possess chemical weapons and called the allegations "baseless and fabricated."

It said Sudan's military and civilian industrial facilities "are all open ... any time" for visits by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which

monitors implementation of the convention.

The OPCW said last week that it examined "the relevant parts" of the Amnesty International report and noted the government's response. "Without further information and evidence being made available, it is not possible at this stage to draw any conclusions based on the content of the report," an OPCW statement said.

Ladsous said the U.N. would therefore "encourage the government of Sudan ... to maintain full cooperation with any future OPCW investigation as it has expressed readiness to do."

While Sudan's U.N. Mission gave a green light for the OPCW to visit industrial sites, it made no mention of an OPCW visit to Jebel Marra, a stronghold of a Sudan Liberation Army faction which is one of the main rebel groups fighting Sudanese security forces.

Ladsous said an upsurge in fighting in mid-September in Jebel Marra between government forces and fighters loyal to the Sudan Liberation Army's founder Abdul Wahid Elnur has displaced at least 5,500 people, and possibly 16,000 according to

some claims.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his latest report that between January and late August over 80,000 people were newly displaced across Darfur, mainly in Jebel Marra. He said unverified reports offered a much higher figure for the number of newly displaced people in Darfur.

Darfur, a region in western Sudan which is the size of Spain, has been in turmoil since 2003, when ethnic Africans rebelled, accusing the Arab-dominated Sudanese government of discrimination and neglect. The United Nations says at least 300,000 people have died in the conflict and 2.7 million have fled their homes.

Ban reported "some progress" in various efforts to resolve the conflict, but Abdul Wahid Elnur isn't part of negotiations and there have been no consultations with his leadership since July.

"We continue to engage both sides in the urgent need to resume dialogue," Ladsous said.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current Security Council president, cited diminished violence and "a lot of progress on the political track" in Darfur.

Hong Kong party says Wong has been detained in Thailand

BY THE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK — Hong Kong student pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong has been detained by Thai officials after arriving here to give a talk at a university, his political party said.

Demosisto said in a Facebook post that the party was unable to contact Wong after he arrived at Bangkok's main airport on Tuesday.

The group said it got word early Wednesday from a Thai student activist who was expected to meet Wong that he had been detained at Suvarnabhumi Airport after Thai authorities received a request from the Chinese government about his visit.

Wong, who turns 20 next week, was one of the high-profile student leaders behind the huge pro-democracy street protests two years ago that marked

the former British colony's most turbulent period since China took control in 1997. In August, a Hong Kong court sentenced him to community service for his role in the protests, which closed down parts of the city for months.

There was no immediate comment from Thai authorities.

"Demosist strongly condemns the Thai government for unreasonably limiting Wong's freedom and right to entry, and requests the immediate release of Wong," the party's Facebook post said.

The Thai student activist who was to have met Wong, Netiwit Chotipatpaisal, said in a Facebook post that Wong had "been confined at the immigration in Thailand because there's a request from Chinese government to Thai authority."

COUNTY

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"They use the Bible to justify their stance on things and usually for a singular moral position, sometimes a double moral position. But that is the extent of it," Garrison said.

Wilder, however, said people will be judged by God for

their behavior and whether they misuse Scripture.

Still, Brown pointed out that crosses were burned while Scripture were being quoted. Scripture was read while slaves were hanged, she said.

"It doesn't matter where we stamp or place the words 'In God We Trust' if we have those inside the building not being

christlike," Brown said.

Actions, such as what resolutions the commissioners approve and their budget priorities, let the people know who the commissioners are, according to Garrison.

"If we are true believers and love God, love our fellow man ... you don't have to advertise it outside," Garrison said.

ALUM

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Aside from the fact that he graduated there, Campbell's mother, Alicia Campbell, is also Southern Vance's current bookkeeper. The school is currently looking at ways to honor the passing of a graduate and offer support to one of its staff members.

Brandelyn Breinig, a science teacher at Southern Vance, said that members of student govern-

ment will be meeting to discuss planning and preparation for an anti-violence walk to be held in Campbell's honor.

"It is tentatively set for Oct. 19, and it will be an anti-violence walk in his honor," she said.

Breinig also said that the walk would act as a fundraiser to help assist Campbell's family to pay for expenses.

"All the proceeds that we raise will go to his family for funeral expenses ... and whatever else they may need the money for," she said.

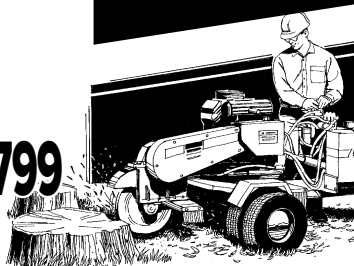
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