



Reflection on Sudan –July 3

The War in Sudan has almost 15 months old since its eruption in mid May 2023, although the month of July has witnessed significant diplomatic moves at the regional and international levels, the military operations has been and still fierce specially in Khartoum , Elgazeera and Sinnar states ,as well sporadic military confrontations in Darfur and Kordofan state. On the other hand, some unexpected developments have overshadowed the political and diplomatic atmosphere since the historical visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister – Abie Ahmed to Port Sudan , Mohamed Bin Zayed the president of UAE called G. Burhan and held a phone conversation brokered by the Ethiopian Prime minister - in which G. Burhan raised Sudanese concerns and accusation against UAE's support to RSF ,Bin Zayed expresses keenness of his country to assist in halting the conflict in Sudan.

The Geneva talks on humanitarian Issues finished on 19th July , statements by the UN, and both parties delegations at the end of the talks, however, the humanitarian response is still very low due to poor commitment and flow of assistance by donors and UN agencies despite many pledges in Geneva, Paris and Port Sudan, Uncertain news about forthcoming visit by the Egyptian president –Alsessi to Port Sudan. The ambassador of Iran to Sudan has submitted his credential to the Head of the National Sovereign Council- General AL Burhan.

This reflection covers major developments in the military, political, diplomatic and Humanitarian fields.

Military:

Confrontations between the Sudanese Armed forces supported by the Joint forces of the Armed struggle movement, armed popular Resistance, and volunteers from one hand ,and the Rapid Support Forces and other militias aligned with it. In Khartoum State, particularly in Omdorman SAF is making notable advancement in the areas of Ombada and Elfetahab, in the far west and South of the city, around 90 percent of the city under the control of SAF, RSF continues shelling residential areas of Omdorman specially Althoura town targeting civilians. The government is exerting efforts for early recovery of citizen life In Omdorman , great number of IDPs who fled the conflict earlier in Khartoum and recently from Elgazeera and Sinnar state as well as Egypt are now coming back to Omdorman on daily basis. Electricity, water, health, and financial institutions are also back in service, the city currently going through steady recovery.

Brutal clashes in Bahri as SAF is recapturing key areas in South Bahri(Old Bahri) and in Kafoori , around 118 RSF soldiers fled fighting Elgaily oil refinery- north Bahri-have surrender to SAF based in Elmaageel in Nile State, the presence of RSF personnel in Bahri has been shrinking in many parts of bahri , maybe of the participation in Elgazeera and Sinnar military operations ,big numbers of RSF forces are fleeing Khartoum back to their areas of origin in Darfur and Korofan.

At the same time, SAF –special forces are carrying out operations against RSF presence. In Khartoum Town, clashes between SAF and RSF In Elshagara , Lamab and abu Adam where SAF launched ground attacks to clean the areas of RSF presence. Clashes are also continued in Burri and some areas in the center of the town.

Following a statement by the RSF spokespersons in response to the threat raised by Galha one of the prominent figures of RSF in Khartoum who is originally affiliates from Misieria Tribe. Galha in a recent statement criticized Egypt and some regional and international powers of supporting SAF ,the RSF spokespersons have denied that Galha is a leader in RSF and what he said was representing his own views, not representing RSF views, Galha got angry of RSF spokespersons and call upon his forces in some areas to withdraw to Khartoum a matter that created military confrontations between RSF forces of both tribes which is likely to get expanded over the coming weeks.

In Sinnar state, RSF launched many attacks on Sinnar and Mairno towns in an attempt to take control of the two cities, all these attacks were repelled by SAF with huge casualties among RSF forces. The ongoing conflict escalated in June when the RSF led by Albishi launched a major attack in Sinnar state, their initial objectives were to seize Jabal Moya, crucial link between Sinnar , Algazeera and what Nile States, severe confrontations occurred in the area over the control of Jabal Moya strategic area. Later in late June, RSF avoided SAF in Sinnar town advancing 60 Kilometers to Singgah and take control of the vast areas of the town, RSF committed atrocities in Singgah town and areas South Wards, west wards and east wards where there are not SAF of other regular forces present, their main objective was looting, killing and displacing local communities from their homes, SAF has confronted their moves by airstrikes and ground confrontations as happened in Aldindir town.

As a result of the intensive ground confrontations and airstrike by SAF , RSF announced the killing of the Brigadier General Abdelrahman Elbishi on Sunday 20th July,Albishi served as an operational leader for RSF in Sinnar and Blue Nile States, he was the most prominent leader of RSF in the area beside Almac Abu Shotal of Blue Nile, the killing of Albishi will have devastating impacts on RSF specially in Elgazeera and Sinnar states, RSF will suffer a wider leadership vacuum ,lack of supplies, connection / communication difficulties, and financial problems ,it might have negative impacts on RSF forces similar to what happened in Darfur in the post killing of G. Ali Yagoob who his death has created huge leadership vacuum to RSF forces in Darfur.

There are no certainty around the circumstances, Albishi surrounding Albishi death, RSF disclosed that airstrikes by SAF targeted RSF's leaders meeting outside Sinnar caused the death of Albishi among other prominent ground and operational leaders. Its worth mentioning that the death of Albishi has raised differences among RSF forces in Sinnar and Elgazeera, particularly on who will substitute him, some specialists argued that some prominent figures such as Almac Abushotal will not accept Albishi younger brother to take over the leadership in their presence, a matter that likely to create frictions among RSF components in the area.

Phone call between G.Burhan and Mohamed Bin Zayed:

According to the UAE news agency, the president of UAE Mohamed Bin Zayed has received a call from the Head of the National Sovereign Council in Sudan- General Abdelgatah Alburhan discussing the developments in the conflict in Sudan ,the discussion also focused on both countries relationship, Bin Zayed reportedly pledged UAE support . against this narrative the National Sovereign Council-Media stated that the call was initiated by Bin Zayed who requested to talk to G. Burhan, During the conversation, G. Burhan has clearly talked about the Sudanese accusations against UAE of supporting RSF with Military, logistic, diplomatic and political support which caused killing of a big number of Sudanese in addition to looting of assets and civilian service institution and displacement of 10 million Sudanese in and outside the country , Burhan has put clear and direct evidences of the UAE support to RSF , including the facilitation of Hemattee movements in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia , medical treatment of RSF injuries at UAE hospitals, facilitation of transporting arms, ammunition and logistic through Chad ,Uganda and Central Africa Republic, Financial, media and political support to opposition leaders who are supporting RSF politically .

Sudanese political groups and armed movements expressed cautious optimism after the phone call, they hope the conversation will contribute to ending the ongoing conflict in Sudan, some political figures viewed the call as an important step towards peace, describe the call as a step in the right direction, expressing hope for broader regional engagement in solving the crisis, some political leaders hope that the UAE's call to facilitate a return to negotiations in Jeddah as this communication considered a turning point that will yield promising progress >

There are some leakages that a tripartite meeting between Ethiopian prime Minister, Abie Ahmad, G. Alburhan , and Mohamed Bin Zayed to take place in Addis Ababa in the near future to achieve rapprochement between Sudan and UAE , no official source confirms.

Visit of the Egyptian President to Port Sudan:

Many major social media and media outlets have announced the visit of president Abdelfatah Elsisi to port Sudan next Thursday 25th July, this visit came in an atmosphere of rapid developments in Sudan's political and diplomatic fields since the beginning of July, so far no official statement from both countries to confirm the visit, however, the visit is expected.

Sudan's Humanitarian Talks in Geneva:

The Un Secretary-General personal envoy to Sudan Ramatan Lamamra has issued statement in the conclusion of the humanitarian talks in Geneva, between the government of Sudan and RSF, Lamamra and his team facilitated approximately 20 sessions centered on delivery of Humanitarian aid to all Sudanese requesting Assistances. Lamara describe the discussion as an encouraging initial step in a longer and complex process. The UN intends to continue engagement with both sides to follow up on the implementation to address critical issues.

Final statement made by government delegations highlighted efforts in facilitating humanitarian work including visas, permits, and delivery of aid through humanitarian routes which have been increased recently by 80 percent, urge international donors to deliver in their pledges and respond to the humanitarian needs, affirming that the Government will not allow

any body to lead or coordinate humanitarian work rather than the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).

Despite many forums on Humanitarian support to Sudan failed to provide aid assistance because of lack of commitment by donors.