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Media Monitoring Report

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- Op-Ed: Sudan: The Two States of Tyranny!. By Abdullah Iskandar. *Al-Hayat (UK)*.11/07/2010.
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2010-07-12GVEL-87ALFG>
- Commentary: Sudan's media is being suppressed on secession. By Nesrine Malik. *The Guardian (UK)*.10/07/2010.
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2010-07-12RRGA-87APK5>

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Highlights

Government says ICC seeking to block Darfur mediation efforts

Al-Ayyam 13/7/10 – Information Minister and Government spokesperson Dr. Kamal Obeid yesterday issued a statement reacting to the ICC decision charging President Al-Bashir with genocide. “The ICC is working to block the resolution of the Darfur issue. The Government is not concerned about the ICC decisions. Hostile quarters stand behind the genocide charge,” the statement said. Obeid added that the ICC is a political court, citing the timing of the decision.

“The proof that the ICC is political is that it has never met to look into argument of the victims. The confusion within the court is evidence that the Sudanese government’s decision not to recognize or cooperate with it is right. It is a politically-motivated decision,” Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, NCP political secretary said, according to **Akhir Lahza**.

“By his decision, ICC Prosecutor Ocampo wants to remind that he is alive and kicking. The court is political, Sudan will not recognize its decisions,” Ambassador Osman Nafie, Director of the Presidency’s Directorate of Political Affairs, told **Al-Ahram**.

Reuters 12/7/10 reported that the International Criminal Court issued a second arrest warrant on Monday for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir for the crime of genocide.

Bashir, who faces an ICC arrest warrant from March 2009 for war crimes and crimes against humanity, has dismissed the court's claims that he is responsible for crimes in the Darfur region leading to the death of as many as 300,000 people and a campaign of "rape, hunger and fear" against a further 2.5 million in refugee camps.

According to **Sudan Tribune** 12/7/10, the ICC decision came as he was en-route to Khartoum from Asmara after making a previously unannounced visit.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that [Omar al-Bashir] acted with specific intent to destroy in part the Fur, Masaalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups" the ICC judges said.

"Towns and villages inhabited by other tribes, as well as rebel locations, were bypassed in order to attack towns and villages known to be inhabited by civilians belonging to the Fur, Masaalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups."

It also appeared likely that "acts of rape, torture and forcible displacement were committed against members of the targeted ethnic groups," said the court.

The prosecutor had presented evidence of government forces contaminating the wells and water pumps of villages inhabited by these groups, who were also subject to forcible transfer "in furtherance of the genocidal policy", said the court.

This is the first time the ICC makes a finding of genocide against a suspect. The counts added today include genocide by killing, genocide by causing serious bodily or mental harm and genocide by deliberately inflicting on each target group conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction.

The judges rejected a previous request submitted by two pro-Sudan, the Sudan Workers Trade Unions Federation (SWTUF) and the Sudan International Defense Group (SIDG) to submit observations against adding the counts of genocide.

They also declined a request made last February by the prosecutor to convene a closed hearing in order to file additional evidence with regard to genocide.

Abdel-Mahmood Abdel-Haleem, Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations, called the new arrest warrant a "malignant and desperate attempt" to destabilize the country.

"We condemn this move in strongest terms and we are confident that the Sudanese people and all the peace-loving nations will ensure the demise of this criminal institution," Abdel-Haleem said in a statement.

In Khartoum, senior National Congress Party official Rabie Abdulatti called the charge ridiculous.

"This is not a charge against the president. It is against the sovereignty and independence of our country," he told *Reuters*.

"We think that such an action is designed to serve the agenda of others. Sudan faces hostility from different countries."

The Darfur rebel groups were quick to hail the decision against the Sudanese president describing it as a victory for the people of Darfur.

"This is a golden opportunity for the international community to show the resolve to end the gravest crime humanity has ever known committed against our people in Darfur" said Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) to *Sudan Tribune*.

"Never again was the promise the world made that they will not have genocide like Rwanda happen under their watch. The world must not politicize justice and support the ICC in order to deter any potential criminals in any part of the world" Al-Nur added.

The Justice and Equality Movement rebel group called the development "a victory for the people of Darfur, the war victims who anxiously awaited this ruling...it is a victory to international justice and peace-loving countries who oppose impunity"

In Washington, US State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley urged al-Bashir to submit himself to the ICC to face the genocide charges.

"We believe that he should present himself to the ICC and answer the charges that have been leveled against him," Crowley said.

"Everyone is entitled to a day in court, and we think the sooner that President Bashir presents himself to that court, the better," he said.

In New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was "deeply concerned by the nature of charges against President Al-Bashir", spokesman Farhan Haq told a press briefing in New York.

Ban urged the Khartoum government "to provide its full support to the work of the ICC and address issues of justice and reconciliation," he said.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) called on the international community to press Sudan to cooperate with the ICC.

"President al-Bashir's stonewalling on the initial ICC warrant against him appears only more outrageous now that he's also being sought for genocide," said Elise Keppler, senior counsel with the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch.

"Security Council members and other concerned governments should actively press Sudan to stop its blatant obstruction of the ICC and to see to it that al-Bashir appears at the court" she said.

Four U.S. based human rights advocacy organizations - the Enough Project at the Center for American Progress, Genocide Intervention Network, the Save Darfur Coalition, and the American Jewish World Service issued a joint statement lauding the genocide charge and calling on Obama to ensure his arrest.

"The Government of Sudan should immediately turn over President al-Bashir to face trial in The Hague. Barring this unlikely cooperation, the United States and the international community should work together to ensure Bashir's swift arrest" the statement read.

Salva Kiir imposes restrictions on GoSS ministers' travel abroad

Sudan Tribune website 11/7/10 – GoSS ministers are given strict directives not to unnecessarily travel abroad, according to a presidential order issued on Sunday.

For the past five years, ministers have been undertaking frequent private and official uncoordinated travels abroad, some of which could have been handled by their low ranking civil servants or head of missions in such respective countries. The uncoordinated travels by officials also had financial and functional implications in the ministries and the government; it is costly and impedes departmental and government work.

In the presidential order, GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit said from this year, 2010, all cases of travels abroad by ministers shall be approved by the President himself and only after a notice of travel and the clearance form has been presented to the Minister of Cabinet Affairs...

SPLM Pagan in Brussels for talks with European officials

Al-Akhbar 13/7/10 – SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum yesterday left for Brussels on several-day visit for talks with EU officials. Amum has defended his foreign trips, saying they aim to mobilize support for both the North and the South. Reportedly, Pagan's visit will last until Thursday after which he will return to Juba to participate in the two CPA partners' talks on post-referendum arrangement on 19 July.

EU allocates 150 m euro for war victims in Sudan

Ajras Al-Hurriya 13/7/10 – The European Union yesterday announced that it decided to allocate 150 million euro to assist war victims in southern Sudan, Darfur, eastern Sudan and the North-South border areas.

Minister says concerned by rise of sex industry in Juba

Sudan Tribune website 12/7/10 - Police patrols are being used in Juba to curb the rise in prostitution in the southern Sudan's capital, an official from the government of Southern Sudan said yesterday.

Many commercial sex workers flocked to Juba, from neighbouring countries as Uganda, Kenya and Congo after a peace agreement was signed between the dominant parties in the north and south in 2005.

At one point the sex industry was growing so fast that the government of Southern Sudan was concerned the capital would turn into a sex tourism destination, Bol Ajiing from Central Equatoria's regional ministry of culture and heritage told Sudan Tribune in a phone interview from Juba.

Ajiing said that the situation is better now than it was in 2009 before Custom Market, a former red light area in Juba, was knocked down and relocated to Jebel Kunjur and police and security services gave the issue more attention.

The arrival of foreign sex workers, Sudanese returning from countries with severe HIV/AIDS problems and changing attitudes to sex in south Sudan have led to alarming rates among certain populations according to the UNFPA.

SAF launches extensive operations in Adoula Mountains

SUNA 12/7/10 – The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said it conducted extensive combing operations in Adoula Mountains, between North and South Darfur states, resulting in cleaning the area from all remnants of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The spokesman of the Armed Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad, said in a statement to SUNA that the Armed Forces entered the area from three directions and JEM fighters fled without significant fighting in several areas, retreating northward and leaving behind many vehicles, dead and wounded men.

Japan won't send military choppers to Sudan

AFP 13/7/10 -Japan said Tuesday it would not send military helicopters to Sudan for a

UN peacekeeping mission in January because it would be too risky.

"As a result of our on-the-spot study, we have found we cannot predict the difficulties of inland transport missions," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku told a news conference.

"There is no backup for helicopter operations at all," he said. "The difficulty is extreme."

Japan had been considering sending helicopters and crew to transport ballot boxes as part of a UN mission that will oversee the January 2011 referendum on the independence of South Sudan.

The referendum is a central plank of a 2005 peace agreement which ended more than two decades of war between Sudan's north and its impoverished south, which has vast and largely untapped natural resources.

In Sudan, war is around the corner

By DAVE EGGERS and JOHN PRENDERGAST

FOR many good reasons, Americans are doubting our ability as a nation to positively influence events abroad. We're involved in two conflicts with dubious outcomes and we've begun to question whether any step we take, anywhere, will be the right one. But it was not long ago that the United States intervened abroad in a bold way that led to undeniably positive results.

From 1983 to 2005, more than two million people died and four million were forced from their homes in southern Sudan during a war between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Shortly after George W. Bush entered the White House, he decided he would put the full diplomatic leverage of the United States to work in ending this war, one of the bloodiest conflicts of the 20th century.

He succeeded. In 2005, the United States helped broker a comprehensive peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the southerners. It was an important moment for international diplomacy and a prime example of what the United States can do when it focuses its influence effectively.

In the clear, simple and eminently enforceable peace agreement, South Sudan was granted three crucial things: robust participation in the central government while ruling the south semi-autonomously; a 50-50 split of all oil revenues (the country's oil is largely in the south); and the ability, in 2011, to vote to secede via referendum.

The assumption in Sudan is that when the referendum comes, southerners will vote overwhelmingly for secession. Since Sudan became independent in 1956, the people in the south have been marginalized, terrorized and subjected to countless human rights violations under successive regimes in Khartoum, and the possibility of forming a new nation in 2011 is viewed by southerners as a sacred right.

But the referendum is scheduled for January, a mere six months away, and all signs indicate that the Khartoum government will undermine the voting process or not recognize its results. The ruling National Congress Party has stalled on virtually every pertinent part of the peace agreement, and the national and local elections in April — which most international observers agree were stained by fraud — are a foreboding precedent.

If January comes and goes without a referendum, or if the results are manipulated, then fighting will break out. Both sides have been arming themselves since the peace agreement, so this iteration of north-south violence will be far worse than ever before. And if war resumes in the south, the conflict in Darfur, in western Sudan, will surely explode again.

To allow this triumph of international diplomacy to collapse and leave the people of southern Sudan vulnerable is unconscionable. But the questions are stark: what can the United States do to help prevent a war that could cost millions of lives? How can the United States once again influence the behavior of a government willing to commit crimes against humanity to maintain power?

These are certainly the worries of the Obama administration. Maj. Gen. Scott Gration, the administration's special envoy to Sudan, recently said: "We have no leverage. We really have no pressure."

But we do have leverage. The peace in Sudan is one the United States "owns." Developing a more robust package of carrots and sticks — rolled out multilaterally when possible, unilaterally if necessary — would strengthen America's diplomatic hand, not weaken it.

We propose that the threatened pressures should include placing sanctions on key ruling party officials, blocking debt relief from the International Monetary Fund, supporting International Criminal Court arrest warrants (including the one issued on Monday for Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, for three counts of genocide in Darfur), tightening the United Nations arms embargo and providing further support to the south.

For this diplomatic effort to be effective, real incentives should be on the table as well: If — and only if — true peace comes to Sudan, we could offer conditional, one-year suspensions of the International Criminal Court warrants and normalization of relations between Khartoum and Washington. And experienced American negotiating teams should be deployed immediately to support African Union and United Nations efforts already under way to end the war in Darfur and prevent one between the north and south, just as we did with the 2005 deal.

Bill Clinton often says his greatest regret as president is that he didn't do more to stop the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. There were signs that trouble was brewing long before the killing started, but when it did begin, Mr. Clinton and the international community did not act decisively.

This is President Obama's Rwanda moment, and it is unfolding now, in slow motion. It is not too late to prevent the coming war in Sudan, and protect the peace we helped build five short years ago.

Dave Eggers is the author of "What Is the What." John Prendergast, the co-founder of the Enough Project, is the co-author with Don Cheadle of the forthcoming "The Enough

Moment: Fighting to End Africa's Worst Human Rights Crimes."

Pre-referendum Watch

Advance post-referendum issues, media advised

Sudan Tribune website 12/7/10 - The need to advance post-referendum issues in a fair, balanced and objective manner should be at the forefront of every media practitioners' agenda, a top government official has advised.

Dr. Barnabas Marial Benjamin, the Information and Broadcasting Minister in the Southern government made these remarks during the opening of the editors and senior managers' roundtable conference in Juba on Monday.

"Promotion of media freedom was one of the main agenda of the liberation [Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement] struggle. As such, we encourage journalists to practice fair, accurate, objective and impartially balanced reports that enlighten the masses," Dr. Marial said.

Media practitioners will, during the two days, debate on how best the media can inform Sudanese rural communities on the forthcoming referenda as well as set agreed parameters to be followed during the coverage of the 2011 national event.

Organized by UNMIS Public Information Office (PIO) in collaboration with the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), the two-day event further analyzed media coverage of the April elections; what went wrong and how best such situations can be improved.

"Sudan will pass unity test" – VP Taha

Al-Sahafa 12/7/10 – VP Ali Osman Taha, addressing a rally marking the launch of development projects in the northern state said Sudan would "win the test of unity", adding the country would stay secure and stable, but stressed the need for more hard work towards that end.

Presidents Al-Bashir and Afwerki discuss referendum and bilateral relations

Al-Sahafa 12/7/10 – President Al-Bashir concluded a short visit to Eritrea where he discussed with President Afwerki economic cooperation between the two countries, possibility of supporting unity during referendum, Somalia and differences between Eritrea and Djibouti. According to Foreign Minister Ali Karti, the meeting also discussed the need to implement the remaining CPA benchmarks including the southern Sudan referendum and the possibility of promoting the unity option.

SPLM Pagan "Major obstacle" to Sudan's unity – NCP

Al-Sahafa 13/7/10 - NCP secretary for organizations Qutbi Al-Mahdi told reporters yesterday that SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum is the "biggest obstacle" to unity between the North and the South because of leading anti-unity group within the SPLM.

Meanwhile, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports Amum has revealed that the CPA partners'

negotiations on post-referendum arrangement have stalled but they would be resumed in Juba on Monday. Amum, however, declined to elaborate about the contentious issues.

In another development, ***Al-Ahdath*** 13/7/10 reports that GoSS Information Minister and official spokesperson, B. M. Benjamin, speaking to Al-Jazeera TV yesterday, formally rejected AU Thabo Mbeki's proposal for a confederation between the North and the South.