

15 Dec 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Police quell opposition procession (**Dailies**)
- 99 opposition members released (**Al-Ray Al-Aam**)
- At least 100 detained in pro-reform protest (**AP**)
- SPLM MPs end the boycott of Parliament sessions (**Akhbar Al-Youm**)
- SRSG Qazi welcomes SPLM-NCP agreement (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Gosh: Contentious points on Security Act will be settled by the Parliament (**Dailies**)
- Opposition to submit a memo to the international community and human rights organizations (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Graton urges Sudanese parties to pursue dialogue (**Dailies**)
- Sudan behind kidnap of French nationals-Chadian general (**AFP**)
- Aid group says violence "escalating" in south Sudan (**AFP**)
- Uganda says Sudan claiming more of its territory (**Reuters**)
- Abyei chief administrator dismiss his resignation amid tension (**Sudan Tribune**)
- UN sends peacekeepers to protect Sudanese refugees in Central African Republic (**UN news**)
- Sudan peacekeepers describe 107-day kidnap ordeal (**Reuters**)
- Sudan eyes \$6 bln-\$7 bln investment in 2010 (**Reuters**)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Police quell opposition procession

Al-Sahafa daily reports the Police dispersed yesterday the second procession organized by the opposition parties using tear gas, truncheons and shields. According to the paper, the Police arrested some 48 people accusing them of causing riot and public disturbance.

However, **Al-Ayaam and Ray Al-Shaab** dailies, report that some 100 people were arrested according to the Criminal Law. Among those arrested were leading figures at opposition parties including Mariam Al-Sadiq of Umma Party, the Secretary General of SLM/Minni Ali Doussa and Abdalla Deng Nial of the Popular Congress Party {who was recently nominated as PCP's Presidential candidate}.

The Director of Criminal Department Major General Atta Abdelmajeed affirmed readiness of the Police forces to protect the lives and properties of citizens. He added that a few people attempted to organize processions without obtaining the necessary permits from the concerned authorities, a fact which led to the intervention of the Police.

Al-Ayaam reports the SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said the repression directed against protesters is a flagrant violation to the Political Parties Act and the Interim Constitution which clearly stipulated the right to peaceful assembly. He added that the Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas against protesters who had been seized inside the SLM HQ in Mawrada, Omdurman. The Spokesperson of the SPLM-Northern Sector Keji Jermalili stated that the former Federal Rule Minister at Al-Jazeera State Hafiz Al-Sharif was severely injured after being followed by the Police.

Al-Sahafa reports the leading figure of the Juba forces, Farouq Abu Issa, said over two thousands of people participated in the procession in spite of quelling alternative plans.

99 opposition members released

Al-Ray Al-Aam reports 99 demonstrators were released a few hours after they were arrested by the Police. Police sources informed the paper that they were charged with contravening articles (21, 67, 69 and 77) of the Criminal Law.

At least 100 detained in pro-reform protest

AP reports a senior opposition leader says Sudanese police briefly detained over 100 demonstrators and used tear gas to disperse a pro-reform protest in the capital.

Monday's demonstration was organized by the southern Sudan's People Liberation Movement, the junior partner in the government, and northern opposition parties. The protesters want President Omar al-Bashir's party to amend laws to ensure free and fair elections. Mariam al-Sadek of the northern Umma party said she and more than 100 others were detained for five hours

SPLM MPs end the boycott of Parliament sessions

Akhbar Al-Youm reports SPLM Members of Parliament ended yesterday the boycott of Parliamentary sessions. Meanwhile, the Parliament will start today discussions on Southern Sudan, Abyei Referendums and Popular consultations Acts after more than two months of disagreement between the two partners.

SUNA reports Arman said the agreement between the two partners on the referendums on the south and Abyei and the Popular Consultations is not enough referring to the remaining democratic transformation acts and the Criminal Law. He said that the two partners agreed on having further consultations with other parliamentary groups on the National Security Act.

SRSG Qazi welcomes SPLM-NCP agreement

Al-Ahdath daily reports the SRSG, Ashraf Qazi congratulated the NCP and SPLM on reaching agreements allowing for the adoption of critical legislation governing the Southern Sudanese Referendum, Abyei Referendum, and Popular Consultations. He said "the road ahead may be long, but this major step forward should make the journey easier". He urged the Government of National Unity to make the most of this agreement by implementing the legislation with all due haste, and in particular by moving as quickly as possible to appoint both the Southern and Abyei Referendum Commissions.

Gosh: Contentious points on Security Act will be settled by the Parliament

Al-Khartoum reports the Presidential Advisor on Security GrI. Salah Gosh said the contentious points on the National Security Act will be settled in the Parliament by voting.

Al-Ray Al-Aam reports Gosh revealed that the two partners agreed on the principle of arrest in the Security Act and disagreed on the period of preventive detention. The NCP suggested that it should be one month while SPLM said it should be less than one week, he added. Gosh informed the paper that the two parties agreed on naming two deputies for the Director of the National Security.

Al-Sahafa reports that the Parliament yesterday withdrew the National Security from its agenda for more deliberations between the two partners. The paper adds that the Parliament failed to approve the Trade Unions Act for lack of a quorum.

Opposition to submit a memo to the international community and human rights organizations

Al-Sahafa quotes Farouq Abu Issa as saying that an earlier meeting attended by the leaders of the Juba consensus forces decided to submit a memo to the international community and inform it of all the violations committed. He added that there was a proposal of establishing a Radio and TV stations by the political forces.

Gration urges Sudanese parties to pursue dialogue

Dailies report the Presidential Advisor, Dr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Monday received the American envoy for Sudan, Scott Gration. Dr. Ghazi said they reviewed outcome of the recent meeting between the two peace partners as part of the tripartite mechanism meetings in which Gration is the representative of the United States. The American envoy welcomed the efforts of the two partners to resolve major issues, describing the recent agreement between the two partners as a significant progress. He called for exerting efforts to resolve the remaining issues. He also urged the Sudanese parties to pursue dialogue and discussion and peaceful measures to resolve the issues of difference.

Sudan behind kidnap of French nationals-Chadian general

AFP reports Sudan is behind the abduction of three French nationals, a senior Chadian official told AFP on Monday.

"It is an act of the Sudanese services to sow disorder among us," General Oki Dagache told AFP in Ndjamena. General Dagache is President Idriss Deby's representative to the UN mission in Chad.

"They are against the deployment of the UN and humanitarian workers here," he added.

A shadowy group abducted three French aid workers from Central African Republic and Chad in what they said was a move to get France to change its policy in the region.

"These are people who come from Sudan and go back to Sudan," said Dagache. "They are people manipulated by Sudanese intelligence service."

On November 9, gunmen abducted a French agronomist working for the International Red Cross in eastern Chad.

A hitherto unknown group known as the Falcons for the Liberation of Africa claimed responsibility and also claimed the November 22 abduction of two other French aid workers in Central African Republic, at Birao, near the joint border with Sudan and Chad.

On Thursday, the group threatened to kill one of the hostages if Paris failed to start negotiations within a week.

Aid group says violence "escalating" in south Sudan

AFP reports violence in southern Sudan is "escalating" with an inadequate response to support those affected, medical aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warned on Monday.

"The people of southern Sudan are trapped in a worsening crisis, following the most violent year since the 2005 peace agreement that ended more than two decades of civil war with the north," MSF said in a statement.

"However, the response to the escalating emergency is inadequate," it added.

MSF director of operations for Sudan, Stephan Goetghebuer, said that "violence is surging, plunging people from one disaster to the next."

"Yet immediate needs are not being met", in the semi-autonomous south, Goetghebuer added.

South Sudan has been hit by a series of bloody inter-ethnic clashes as well as rebel attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), with more than 2,000 killed and over 250,000 forced from their homes in 2009, according to the United Nations.

The rate of violent deaths now surpasses that in the western region of Darfur, the United Nations says.

Clashes between rival ethnic groups in south Sudan erupt frequently -- often sparked by cattle raids and disputes over natural resources, while others are retaliation for previous attacks.

Uganda says Sudan claiming more of its territory

Reuters reports Sudan has claimed a chunk of Ugandan land, aggravating a border dispute and threatening to reignite border violence, a Ugandan official said on Monday.

Sudanese authorities could not immediately be reached for comment. The two countries' dispute involves an area where geologists say an intensive search for oil is under way.

Uganda's State Minister for Regional Cooperation, Okello Oryem, told Reuters South Sudanese officials demanded a 5 km (3 miles) portion of Ugandan land at a meeting on Dec. 12.

"It's true the Sudanese claimed ownership of a bigger chunk of land but of course we have colonial maps and other documents that clearly state where the border lies and I'm confident we'll reach an agreement when we meet in January," he said.

Sudan and Uganda have held meetings to try to iron out border disputes and Sudan demanded a 1 km strip of land earlier this year.

The latest Sudanese claim was made at a meeting in the West Nile town of Moyo that had been convened to resolve tensions sparked by attacks on Ugandan farmers by south Sudan's soldiers, Oryem said.

Instead, the leader of the Sudanese delegation, Muki Batali Bulli, made fresh claims on land he said had traditionally belonged to Sudanese tribes.

"They are basing their claims on old tribal settlements and we're saying that they are wrong," Oryem said.

The east African nation has been involved in a number of territorial disputes with neighbours and more similar incidents could arise owing to unclear demarcation lines drawn by the region's former colonial masters.

Earlier this year, Ugandan and Kenyan diplomatic relations were strained when they both claimed ownership of a rocky outcrop called Misingo Island on Lake Victoria.

The island's ownership is still undetermined because a joint demarcation committee set up to determine its location reached conflicting conclusions.

Uganda's military has also clashed with the Democratic Republic Congo army over Lake Albert, with Congo claiming that Uganda was encroaching on its territory. Commercial deposits of oil have been struck around the lake.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and South Sudan leader Salva Kiir toured the border area in November in a bid to calm the bubbling conflict.

A geologist and retired commissioner of Uganda's Petroleum Exploration and Production Department, Reuben Kashambuzi, told Reuters that the chunk Sudan is claiming is in the Albertine Graben where there is much oil prospecting activity.

Uganda has already discovered an estimated 2 billion barrels of oil in the Graben.

Abyei chief administrator dismiss his resignation amid tension

Sudan Tribune reports Abyei chief administrator, Brigadier General Arop Mayak Montoc, has finally broke long silence with dismissal of allegations that he had resigned accusing two members of his cabinet to have shifted administrative differences to a political tension in recent months.

"There are individuals, who have taken internal administrative differences as alternatives to advancing their own agendas, but they will not succeed," he warned saying these concerns are in-house matters. He went on to say internal differences are becoming major concerns to two of his cabinet members than how to address issues pertaining to Abyei which attracts international attentions.

The official who spoke to Sudan Tribune from Juba said he had approached SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit who wears other hats as President of the semi autonomous government of South Sudan and another a First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, for possible settlement before traveling to Khartoum on Thursday. "It is this meeting which I had with the President that had been turned into resignation," he said emphasizing that what he discussed with the President was how to settle these issues with immediacy.

Asked about allegations that some members of his cabinet have threatened to resign if he or all of them are not removed, he said resignation is never a general. "It is personal decision and so I am not aware of resignation from other members of the cabinet." "If there are individuals willing to resign, it is their democratic and civil right to do so but should be linked to administrative differences because efforts to resolve them are being pursued," he added. In October, Abyei chief administrator issued administrative order arresting two of his Director Generals in the departments of finance and physical infrastructure following financial scandal allegations and defiance to administrative instructions.

A charge officials denied saying have done nothing wrong to warrant arrest which turned nasty when police claimed to have received instructions to beat the officials and threw them into the back of the vehicles like criminals.

UN sends peacekeepers to protect Sudanese refugees in Central African Republic

UN news reports United Nations peacekeepers were sent today to protect a camp of refugees from Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region in the north-east of the Central African Republic (CAR) and humanitarian staff working there after an attack, apparently by bandits, left three people dead on a nearby road.

"This attack apparently due to people seeking to block the road [between Sam Ouandja and Ouanda-Djale], has provoked serious tension between the UFDR, a armed Central African group, two of whose members were killed, and the Sudanese refugees of Sam Ouandja," the UN mission set up to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian aid in Chad and CAR said in a communiqué.

The mission, known by the acronym MINURCAT, added that it was following the situation closely and would reinforce its military presence in Sam Ouandja if necessary.

CAR, especially its north-east, has been plagued by armed rebels and bandits for years, a

situation exacerbated by the spill-over of the Darfur conflict. UN officials have repeatedly called for an end to attacks on civilians that have seen scores of thousands of people driven into the bush, with scant means of sustenance, an appeal reiterated by the mission today.

"MINURCAT stresses that refugee camps must maintain their civilian character and that all attacks perpetrated against refugees or humanitarian workers constitute a violation of international human rights that can entail penal consequences," it said.

Sudan peacekeepers describe 107-day kidnap ordeal

Reuters reports Two freed peacekeepers on Monday described how they survived 107 days held by kidnapers without shelter in remote mountains in Sudan's Darfur region.

Pamela Ncube from Zimbabwe and Patrick Winful from Nigeria, looking frail but cheerful, received an emotional welcome at Khartoum airport a day after they were freed in Darfur.

The civilian workers for Darfur's joint U.N./African Union UNAMID peacekeeping force were abducted at gunpoint from their base in the west Darfur town of Zalingei in August in one of a new wave of kidnappings."There was no shelter at all. We were under the sun, under the moon," Winful told Reuters at the airport.

Winful said they were treated "quite well" by their captors but exposed to harsh conditions in Darfur's central Jabel Marra Mountains.

"We were in the mountains throughout. There was the harmattan (a dust storm). There were the rains." The UNAMID security officer said they worked hard to keep each other cheerful. "Without that we wouldn't have made it out. We just took a day at a time."

Both said they were too exhausted to talk longer and thanked Sudan's government for keeping up pressure on their captors. They were given medical checks at the airport. "I feel great. I give glory to God," said Ncube, a member of UNAMID's child protection team.

West Darfur's national security chief Ahmed Altayeb Abugroon told Reuters the kidnapping was carried out by bandits linked to rebel groups in the area. "We negotiated through the families of the kidnapers and other channels ... Yesterday, thanks to God, we persuaded them to release the captives." Abugroon said the peacekeepers were set free about 13km (8 miles) outside Zalingei and walked until they were picked up by local authorities. Government authorities earlier said the captors had demanded a ransom but none was paid. UNAMID officials at the airport said Ncube and Winful told them they had survived on assida -- a porridge made from ground millet -- and birds caught in the area. "They were moved all the time, always in the valley of the mountains. They lived outside under trees ... They were sick with stomach problems," said UNAMID spokesman Nouredine Mezni.

"The local administration played an important role. They were negotiating until the last minute." The peacekeepers, he said, "were both very brave".

Gunmen have abducted at least 14 foreigners in Darfur and just over its border in neighbouring Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) since March.

Sudan eyes \$6 bln-\$7 bln investment in 2010

Reuters reports Sudan's minister of state for investment said on Monday he expects investments of \$6-7 billion in the country in 2010, adding that Africa's largest nation is seeing increased interest in its agricultural sector.

"A lot of countries have now started to enter into strategic partnerships with us in established projects," Salman Suliman Alsafi told Reuters on the sidelines of an investment conference in Cairo.

"I expect that the size of our investments next year will be around \$6 billion-\$7 billion, and especially in the agricultural sector now there has been interest in it, especially after the food crisis," Alsafi added, without giving comparative figures.