

19 November 2009

www.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- Algeria's President praises Sudan's hospitality (*Dailies*)
- "We do not want the carrot nor do we fear the stick" – Adviser (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Sudanese president receives invitation from Denmark for UN conference (*ST*)
- Presidency endorses Abyei Legislative Council (*Ajras Al-Hurriah*)
- Demonstrators protest removal of Upper Nile governor (*Al-Intibaha*)
- Security and referendum bills to be passed after Eid – Parliament (*Al-Ayyam*)
- **SPLA shut down 30 voter registration centres in Equatoria** (*Al-Wifaq*)
- Hybrid courts inconsistent with Sudan's constitution – experts (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Darfur mediation delays talks between government and rebels (*ST*)
- 10 killed in Zagawa-Birgid clash in South Darfur (*the Citizen*)
- Minor girl flogged 50 lashes (*Ajras Al-Hurriah*)

**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

---

## **Algeria's President praises Sudan's hospitality**

President Al-Bashir received yesterday a cable from his Algerian counterpart thanking him and the Sudanese people for their hospitality during the soccer event, *local dailies* report.

In a related development, *Sudan Tribune website* 18/11/09 reported the Egyptian Government is dispatching special troops to Sudan to evacuate its soccer fans claiming to be targeted by Algerians in the capital, the Egyptian ambassador to Sudan said today.

"The Egyptian soccer fans were subjects to assaults from the Algerian fans in Al-Jomhoriya Street," Afifi Abdel-Wahab told the Youth and Sports radio.

The Egyptian envoy said that he is in constant contact with the authorities in Sudan while waiting for Special Forces to arrive.

Abdel-Wahab revealed that the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak phoned the Sudanese presidency calling on them "to control the escalating situation".

Algeria beat Egypt 1-0 getting the last ticket to the 2010 soccer world cup held in South Africa.

The match was a special event after Egypt and Algeria equalized in terms of points and goals requiring a decisive match on neutral ground per FIFA rules.

## **"We do not want the carrot nor do we fear the stick" – Adviser**

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail has criticized the US's carrot and stick policy toward Sudan, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. "We do not want the carrot, nor do we fear the stick," he told the opening of an education conference in Dongola. He added that no power in the world can change Sudan's course, citing US failure to do so by various means.

## **President Al-Bashir receives invitation for UN conference**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/11/09– The Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir received an invitation from Denmark to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15), the Copenhagen Post reported today.

A Danish official suggested that Bashir, who is a target of an arrest warrant by the ICC, has been invited in his capacity as a head of state.

Thomas Winkler, head of the Danish Foreign Ministry's legal department, said that as the climate conference is a UN event, Denmark is obliged to invite all heads of government without exception.

"But at the same time we would point out that Denmark is also obliged to comply with the Security Council's resolution regarding Darfur," Winkler was quoted by the Copenhagen Post.

## **Presidency endorses Abyei Legislative Council**

*Ajras Al-Hurriah* reports the Presidency issued a decree accrediting the Abyei Legislative

Council as an Interim Assembly for the Area and renewed confidence in its members.

## **Demonstrators protest removal of Upper Nile governor**

**Al-Intibaha** reports demonstrations took to streets in the Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity states to protest the decision to remove Upper Nile governor Galwak Deng Garang from his post, saying Deng has achieved a lot in the area of development. The demonstrators have called on the GoNU and GoSS to intervene to reverse the decision. Meanwhile, Deng denied that he has resisted the decision of his removal but said he would not surrender to the decision because he was not officially informed.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 18/11/09 reported that GoSS minister of culture, youth and sports, Gabriel Changson Chang strongly opposed the change in the Upper State describing the move as divisive and unconstitutional.

The unilateral decision taken by the NCP to remove Upper Nile State Governor, General Galwak Deng Garang, holds nothing substantial other than intention to divide and rule the region on tribal basis, he said.

This comes following a presidential order alleged to have emanated from the office of the President of the Republic of Sudan, Omer Al-Bashir, instructing Governor General Garang to relinquish chair to NCP appointed Governor William Othon Ober.

According to CPA, the ruling NCP of President Bashir is given one gubernatorial seat in South Sudan and the same applies to SPLM in Northern Sudan.

Appointment of individuals into these sensitive constitutional positions and their cabinets is never unilateral but done after consultation with leaders from ruling party from where governor serves, Chang explained.

He also said any party decision to remove their member occupying the chair becomes effective only after proper and convincing consultation with ruling party like NCP in the north and SPLM in the south is done.

In the case of Upper Nile State governor, talks over NCP demands to remove him were held but reached no conclusion because NCP leadership never presented convincing reasons, he adds.

Asked what reasons did NCP present for removal, he said, their reasons were ever changing hence no proper reason is known but have capitalized on having swayed from party's principles to collaborate with SPLM.

The governor was accused of collaboration with SPLM and local authorities on issues opposed to NCP principles. The other reason was that NCP asserted the chair belongs to them and it is therefore NCP leadership decision to appoint any member deemed committed and loyal to the party, he said.

The third being power struggle in Upper Nile among dominance tribes. However, none of the tribes has petitioned NCP leader to remove governor, he adds ...

## **Security and referendum bills to be passed after Eid – Parliament**

**Al-Ayyam** reports that the Parliamentary Affairs Committee announced that the National Assembly would approve the security and referendum bills after the Eid holiday. National

Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has called on the MPs to be on the standby for any eventuality. However, Deputy Speaker Atem Garang said the Parliament could not pass these laws before an agreement between the CPA partners is reached.

### Voter Registration

#### **SPLA shut down 30 voter registration centres in Equatoria**

**Al-Wifaq** reports the SPLA continues to detain and torture NCP members. Sources said SPLA shut down 30 voter registration centres in the Central Equatoria State.

In a related development, **The Citizen** reports that some people are buying off voter registration cards from other people. The shady buyers are paying up to SDG100 per voter card, SPLM officials reportedly said, citing the outcome of a tour of some states in southern Sudan.

SPLM Deputy Secretary-General Ann Itto said that the tour has also revealed that some people are threatening others not to register on the grounds that the voter registration cards are "used for marking landmines". She also pointed out that other people are charging SDG10 for registration...

#### **Hybrid courts inconsistent with Sudan's constitution – experts**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports that a number of legal experts said the hybrid court on Darfur crimes proposed by the AU Panel is inconsistent with Sudan's constitution and laws. Representative of the Union of Sudanese Lawyers Ahmed Al-Tijani Al-Jaali told SMC's regular forum yesterday that Mbeki's proposal undermines the integrity of the Sudanese judiciary. Izzeldin El-Tayeb, professor of law at Al-Nilain University, also echoed the same view.

In a related development, **Sudan Tribune website** 18/11/09 reported that the Sudanese Government softened its resistance to the AU proposal for establishing a hybrid court to try the Darfur war crime suspects saying it may accept it under certain conditions.

The Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail acknowledged in an interview to **Al-Mushahid Al-Siyasi** magazine said that his government has reservations on the idea.

"We in Sudan want a comprehensive justice with transparent and absolute confidence in the court and we are working towards making Darfuri people have complete faith in the court" Ismail said.

"However, we want to make sure that this court will not be at the expense of Sudanese independence and its sovereignty" he added.

The Sudanese official said the proposal is not a new one having been recommended during a meeting between Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak as well as by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo but that the former AU commissioner Alpha Omer Konare "was not enthusiastic about it".

Ismail said Sudan "wants a dialogue" with the Sudanese judiciary on the mandate of the hybrid court and the limits of its jurisdiction adding that they accepted the proposal after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant last March for Bashir.

#### **Darfur mediation delays talks between government and rebels**

**Sudan Tribune website** 18/11/09 – Darfur mediation announced today the postponement of peace talks between the Government and the rebel groups but pledged its resumption soon after evaluation of the ongoing rebel reunification process...

The consultative meeting with Darfur civil society groups has been officially inaugurated today with the participation of the Qatari Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani, the Chairman of the African Union Commission Jean Ping, Commissioner of the AU Peace and Security Council, Ramtane Lamamra and the acting head of the UNMAID Henry Anyidoho.

The civil society consultations that will continue until Friday November 20, are considered by the mediation as "complementary to and supportive" of the ongoing efforts to end the conflict. The mediation stressed that these meetings are not a "substitute" for the political process between the government and the rebel groups.

### **10 killed in Zagawa-Birgid clash in South Darfur**

The *Citizen* Reports more than ten people were killed and five wounded in renewed clashes Monday between Birgid and Zagawa in Shangil Tobai area in South Darfur state.

### **Minor girl flogged 50 lashes**

Khartoum court (Kalakla) sentenced a girl to 50 lashes, *Ajras Al-Hurriah* reports. Ms Selma Kashif, 16, claimed she was propositioned by a man but when she resisted the man caught her and forcibly dragged her to a police station where she later discovered that the person was a policeman in civilian dress. She said she was not allowed to contact her family to inform them of the incident and the court proceedings were rushed in order to flog her 50 lashes. Her family deplored the flogging, saying they would file a case.

Meanwhile, executive director of the human rights and legal aid network Azhari Al-Haj who is also NGO secretary has condemned the flogging, saying it is a violation of human rights and an abuse of the law. He expressed indignation over flogging of a minor girl and called on the human rights activists to step up the campaign against Sudan's ill-famed public order law.