

23 Sept 2009

[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- UN “strongly condemns” deadly south Sudan attack (**AFP**)
- Southern Sudan disarmament raises fears of fresh violence (**IRIN**)
- South Sudan dispatches additional troops in Jonglei (**ST**)
- ICC judges allow pro-Sudan groups to rebut genocide appeal (**ST**)
- Darfur humanitarian situation stable – Government (**Al-Raed**)
- UN chief calls on Darfur parties to show restraint (**ST**)
- NCP, SPLM differ over experts for Abyei border demarcation (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Ban urges safe release of abducted UNAMID staff (**UN News Centre**)
- Preparations complete for Juba political forum (**Miraya**)
- Southern Kordofan charts road map for his government (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Masses protest power cuts (**Al-Sahafa**)
- President Al-Bashir arrived in Jeddah (**Dailies**)
- Taha to lead Sudan delegation to Venezuela (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Ghazi to lead Sudan delegation to NY (**Dailies**)
- JEM threatens to boycott Doha talks (**Miraya**)
- **Commentary:** "Crossroads" by US envoy Scott Gration (**Sudan Watch**)

**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

---

## **UN “strongly condemns” deadly south Sudan attack**

**AFP** 23/9/09 - The United Nations on Wednesday said it "strongly condemns" the weekend attack on a village in south Sudan which left 100 people dead.

It also expressed "mounting concern" about the "escalating violence" in the vast region as the country heads towards an April 2010 national election and a referendum scheduled for 2011 in southern Sudan.

Tribesmen from the Lou Nuer ethnic group raided the Dinka Hol village of Duk Padiet in Jonglei state on Sunday morning, forcing a company of Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers based there to flee.

"The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) strongly condemns the attack on the residents of Duk Padiet village," the peacekeeping body said in a statement.

"This latest loss of life comes on the heels of a similar attack on residents of the village of Wernyol in August that also claimed the lives of dozens of civilians, and it appears to fit into a pattern of escalating violence in various parts of southern Sudan since the year began," it said.

Some recent attacks have deliberately targeted women and children and have had little or nothing to do with cattle rustling, a traditional cause of violence between neighbouring tribes and ethnic groups in the region, the statement added.

UNMIS said there may be elements that are directing attacks against state institutions and the UN body urged the South Sudan government to further strengthen efforts to identify and try the people responsible.

More than 2,000 people have died and 250,000 been displaced in inter-tribal violence across the south since January, according to UN figures, with the rate of violent deaths now exceeding that of war-torn Darfur in west Sudan.

UNMIS monitors the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended 22 years of deadly civil war between the north and south of Sudan.

Under that deal, the south has a six-year transitional period of regional autonomy and takes part in a unity government until a 2011 referendum on self-determination.

However, north-south tensions remain high, with Sudan still divided by religious, ethnic and ideological differences.

South Sudan leaders have accused President Omar al-Bashir's National Congress Party of arming tribal militias in the south to destabilize the region ahead of the elections and referendum. NCP denies the claims.

## **Southern Sudan disarmament raises fears of fresh violence**

**IRIN** 22/09/09 - The recent campaign by the Southern Sudanese authorities to seize illegal arms has yielded a "fearsome arsenal" of weapons, but critics warn that forcible disarmament could spark further violence.

Security forces launched the campaign in the Southern capital of Juba on 9 September, with police and soldiers searching houses for illegal weapons.

"This is the first step we have taken to collect the guns from the people, and it will continue until we make sure that all these weapons are in the stores," said Southern President Salva Kiir on 13 September.

"The presence of the guns in the hands of the people increases insecurity, because there are people who want to keep the guns so they can loot at night, and can kill," said Kiir, who is also the first Vice-President of Sudan.

Removing the weapons is key but disarmament outside urban centres is complex. With often extremely limited security in remote regions, many feel forced to re-arm to protect themselves.

"Outside the town, we need to protect ourselves and our cows," said Matthew Deng, who comes from the eastern state of Jonglei. "If they make me give up my gun and my neighbour keeps his, then they will take all we have and kill us. We don't feel safe without a weapon."

Critics say forcible disarmament has not worked in the south. For example, the authorities launched a forcible disarmament in 2006 in Jonglei State, securing some 3,000 guns. Subsequent battles, however, have left at least 1,600 people dead.

"The Jonglei campaign turned into one of the bloodiest military actions in [Southern] Sudan since the end of the second civil war and failed to improve long-term security," O'Brien said.

Kiir has urged people to "work together with the security forces to get rid of all the guns", warning that those who try to hide their weapons will be caught in subsequent arms sweeps.

"We know some people have run outside Juba with their guns to go and hide them so that they will come back with them again, but we will track them down," Kiir said.

"Some people have dug their guns inside their own houses, but we will still get them out from those graves."

### **South Sudan dispatches additional troops in Jonglei**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/9/09 -GoSS interior minister today reiterated commitment to protecting lives and properties of civil populations across the region, adding that more troops are heading to Jonglei state.

To demonstrate GoSS' concern and commitment, the minister on Monday visited Duk Padiet where Lou Nuer militiamen killed some 76 people.

"There is no way the government can allow her civil populations be massacred at will. No, we are committed and determined to providing adequate security to the whole region and more especially to the frequently affected areas by tribal conflicts," said GOSS minister of internal affairs, General Gier Chuang Aluong.

"The latest attack on civil populations in Duk Padiet, Jonglei state, is neither a tribal clash nor cattle rustling issue as it previously used to cover attentions of most people," he said.

"It was a pure military attack by armed groups on civilians," he said adding Government of Southern Sudan has seriously taken note of this incident and is preparing to dispatch a joint military and police forces to the area.

Asked what is his government doing to return the situation to normal, he said, Jonglei State Governor Kuol Manyang with UN representatives and I were on Monday in the area to see for

ourselves what happened and gather relevant information about who exactly were behind the attack.

"The information we collected coupled with what we saw necessitated current decision to urgently send in security forces already on their way to the area."

"Their immediate assignment is to provide adequate security to the affected population and their surroundings," he said adding the government will soon form a ministerial committee to investigate the killing.

Meanwhile, the CPA partners traded accusations on the causes of recent surge of violence in Jonglei state. While Juba speaks about support of the militias, Khartoum says the tribal fighting is a demonstration of failure.

The NCP has accused the SPLM of failing to provide security to its citizens, saying that it had just continued to blame others and NCP in particular over the deteriorating security in southern Sudan.

These accusations come after statements by SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol to the BBC Arabic Service saying that he believes the militiamen had been organized and armed by the NCP of President Omar Al-Bashir.

"It is not normal, it is something politicized and the NCP wants to destabilize southern Sudan, particularly with the approach of the elections," Kuol said in another statement to the Associated Press.

NCP Information Secretary Kamal Obeid denied in statements to SMC any connection with the Lou Nuer militia. He further said that these tribal clashes in southern Sudan demonstrate the SPLM failure to provide security to southerners.

Kamal further said that the SPLM had been using all its political and military tools in order to spoil its relation with NCP ever since it rejected the census process.

### **ICC judges allow pro-Sudan groups to rebut genocide appeal**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/9/09 - The appeals chamber at the International Criminal Court (ICC) permitted pro-government Sudanese groups to submit observations regarding an appeal by the prosecutor for including counts of genocide against president Omar Al-Bashir.

Sudan Workers Trade Unions Federation (SWTUF) and the Sudan International Defense Group (SIDG) have contracted Sir Geoffrey Nice, former senior trial attorney at the Yugoslavian War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague, and Rodney Dixon to represent them in the proceedings relating to the Darfur case.

The two groups submitted briefs to the judges contending that the prosecutor has relied on erroneous and unreliable sources as well as making unfounded inferences from the facts he compiled.

Observations are to be filed by Friday September 25th and the prosecutor may respond by Friday October 2nd.

Khartoum has denied any links to the two groups but a number of SIDG secretariat members

have met with Sudanese officials last year who vowed to support them.

Sudan has said it may deal with the court through a third party, which may include an ICC state party or a law firm.

### **Darfur humanitarian situation stable – Government**

**Al-Raed** reports Humanitarian Affairs State Minister Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani as saying that the humanitarian situation in Darfur is stable and the situation in the South is also improving but slowly due to the inter-trial conflict. He said the return programmes were progressing steadily and called on the donors to honour their pledges to address the humanitarian situation in the South especially food stock would not last beyond three months.

### **UN chief calls on Darfur parties to show restraint**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/9/09 - UN SG Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday called on Darfur conflict parties to show restraint. His appeal comes after attacks by the Sudanese army on rebel position in Korma near Jebel Marra.

Sudanese army carried out two air-ground attacks on the position of the SLM-AW near Jebel Marra particularly in Ain Siro and Korma in North Darfur last Thursday and Friday. The IDPs said the attack killed some 18 civilians and displaced hundreds of people.

Ban Ki-moon said "deeply concerned" by reports of recent clashes between the Sudanese government and Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel wahid Al Nur forces and the resultant loss of civilian lives and properties" in the area of Korma, North Darfur.

In a statement released today UN Secretary-General called "on all parties to use restraint, renew their commitment to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, and redouble their efforts to reach a political settlement of the conflict in Darfur."

He also reiterates the importance of ensuring a safe and free passage for United Nations and humanitarian personnel to assess the situation on the ground and provide life-saving assistance to those in need.

### **NCP, SPLM differ over experts for Abyei border demarcation**

**Al-Sahafa** reports the NCP and the SPLM have failed to agree on three foreign experts to assist the technical committee to demarcate the Abyei area boundary. The source said initially the NCP and the SPLM agreed to seek the help of three foreign experts but the former reneged on the agreement.

Meanwhile, informed source said a JIU company arrived in Higlig to provide protection to the technical committee, saying 60 surveyors have been assigned to assist the committee to demarcate the boundary.

Reportedly, preparations have been finalized for the completion of the demarcation within a month.

### **Ban urges safe release of abducted UNAMID staff**

**UN News Centre** 22/9/09 - SG Ban Ki-moon said today he remains gravely concerned that two civilian staff members with the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur have still not been released, nearly four weeks after they were abducted from their home by gunmen.

The two international staff members – one man and one woman – were abducted from their home in the West Darfur town of Zalingei at gunpoint early in the morning of 29 August by four or five men and taken to an unknown destination.

UNAMID officials are working closely with Sudanese Government officials to try to secure the staff members' safe release, Mr. Ban's spokesperson said in a statement.

"The Secretary-General wishes to underscore the importance of the peacekeeping and humanitarian work being undertaken in Darfur and his belief that UN staff members carry out valuable work around the world, which they should be able to do without fear of harassment or intimidation.

"The Secretary-General expresses his solidarity with the families of the abducted staff members and calls for their safe and speedy return."

### **Preparations complete for Juba political forum**

**Radio Miraya website** 23/9/09 - The Head of the Preparatory Committee for the Juba Political Parties Forum, Mubarak Al Fadhil, has said the committee has completed preparations and made all necessary arrangements for the conference which has been slated for the end of September. He said the NCP had not agreed so far to participate in the forum.

### **Southern Kordofan Governor charts road map for his government**

Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun has tabled before his newly-formed government a work plan aimed at realizing a number of objectives, **Akhir Lahza** reports. The objectives include the introduction of changes in the political, social and economic spheres. Addressing the first session of the new cabinet, Governor Haroun called on the executive body to work with a spirit of true partnership to carrying out national goals.

### **Masses protest power cuts**

**Al-Sahafa** reports angry protesters at Al-Masid Locality, 60 km south of Khartoum, have blocked Khartoum-Wad Medani road for many hours to protest erratic power supply during the Eid holiday. The protesters destroyed an electricity supply facility in the area, forcing police to use teargas to disperse the crowd.

### **President Al-Bashir arrived in Jeddah**

**Local dailies** report that President Omar Al-Bashir arrived yesterday in Saudi Arabia to take part in an inauguration ceremony of King Abdullah University for science and technology.

### **Taha to lead Sudan delegation to Venezuela**

VP Ali Osman Taha will lead Sudan delegation for participation in the African-South America summit in Venezuela scheduled for next Sunday, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports.

### **Ghazi to lead Sudan delegation to NY**

**Local dailies** report Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din will head Sudan delegation to NY to take part in the UNGA. He will present a report to the meeting on the situation in the Sudan and progress of the CPA implementation.

### **JEM threatens to boycott Doha talks**

**Radio Miraya** 23/9/09 - One of Darfur's several warring factions, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has threatened not to take part in the upcoming Doha talks, unless the

government implements the Goodwill Agreement the two sides signed in Doha earlier this year. JEM's External Affairs Secretary, Haroun Abdel Hamid, told Miraya FM that the Government of Sudan should also stop its attacks in Jebel Marra, northern Darfur.

Abdel Hamid added that "all liberated territories" of JEM are opened to international organizations to verify any claims against the movement. He denied allegations of recruiting refugees in Chad and internally displaced persons into their ranks.

## **Commentary: "Crossroads"**

By Scott Gration  
Special Envoy to Sudan  
Washington, DC  
September 18, 2009

**Sudan Watch website** 21/9/09 -For too long, Darfur has been a place of human failing and despair. For too long, the people of Darfur have suffered. And for too long, they have lived without peace and security. I just returned from another trip to Darfur—my fourth. I went back to assess the current situation on the ground and to listen directly to the people living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The capacity of humanitarian aid workers to deliver life-saving assistance is making slow gains, Darfuri armed movements are beginning unification efforts, and UNAMID is gaining strength in terms of force deployment and in fulfilling its protection mandate.

We are also making progress on agreements and promises—with rebel groups as well as the Government. These are critical, but the proof lies in the pudding. What really matters is what the parties to these agreements do in implementation. We are at a crossroads. We are moving forward, but we need to stay diligent and focused on ensuring that the agreements are followed through. We will hold all parties accountable for their actions. We will help where we can, but ultimate responsibility lies with the parties in Sudan.

Since I just returned from this visit, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of our observations. You can also take a look at my flicker photo album to see pictures from our trip album.

### **IDP Camps**

My first stop was in the Abu Shouk camp, which is home to a staggering 54,000 people. I met with camp leaders from Abu Shouk, along with others from four nearby IDP camps. I stressed my long-held view that all IDP returns must be voluntary, at a time and to a location of peoples' choosing, and only when sufficient security exists. I further clarified that I do not advocate the lifting of sanctions against the Government in Khartoum. Finally, I made clear that I have not called for Sudan to be removed from the list of state sponsors of terror. Despite their remoteness, camp residents remain particularly well plugged in to global debates on these issues. Regrettably, they have also been influenced by the politics of their leadership and by mischaracterizations of my statements. So while it is unfortunate that there was this need to set the record straight, I will continue to return to these camps and engage with the millions of people trapped in these humanitarian prisons. It is their lives we are all trying to change.

A particular source of inspiration on my trip was my visit to a women's center in Abu Shouk that provides psychological support and skills training for victims of gender-based violence. While I was there, I saw the women weave baskets to sell and watched a demonstration of the use of new solar cookers that are reducing the need for these women to leave the safety of the camp

to search for firewood. These gracious women also shared with me their specific concerns over security, health, and education. Women will play a central role in the future of Darfur, and we in this administration will work to help bring women in Darfur the tools they need to rebuild their lives.

I was also encouraged by a return visit to Zam Zam camp. I came to this camp five months ago, and coming back showed me that while humanitarian gaps still remain (and some new ones have opened) there have been significant improvements in health, water and sanitation, and food distribution. We need to continue to buttress these efforts with greater humanitarian capacity and access, but we are on the right path and are making positive steps. Meanwhile, I was discouraged to hear that many of the aid workers who had been promised complete freedom of movement and access by local government authorities, and agreement I helped to broker back in April, was not being fully respected. It's unacceptable that this far into the crisis aid workers are still encountering the slightest resistance in carrying out their work. Regardless of the cause of this circumstance, I am pressing for its resolution at the highest levels.

## **UNAMID**

In Darfur we also went to UNAMID's headquarters, where we met with General Patrick Nyambumba, the UNAMID Force Commander, and Mohamed Yonis, the Deputy Joint Special Representative for UNAMID, both of whom have both been appointed within the last two weeks. UNAMID confirmed that the current conflict in Darfur largely hinges around the lack of local law enforcement, which has resulted in an unacceptable number of kidnappings, carjackings, along with generalized banditry. . Despite major challenges ahead, I am encouraged by the prospects for more robust peacekeeping in the coming months as needed personnel and equipment arrive. I have been told by my UN colleagues that by the end of the year, it is expected that 85% of the force will be deployed. As we reach a critical mass of troops, it will be essential to translate those numbers into a more effective security force that can begin to change the fundamental dynamics on the ground.

## **Ain Siro**

In addition to the IDP camps, I also traveled to Ain Siro, a small village in North Darfur. It is a place that has largely been unaffected by the conflict, and it showed me how life in Darfur used to be. The armed movement commanders I met there expressed their willingness to unify and engage in the peace process. I have said it before, but it really is crucial that we work towards armed movement unification if we hope to have a successful and sustainable peace in Darfur. In these coming weeks my team will be stepping up these efforts, along with a parallel outreach towards civil society, in the hope that we can relaunch formal talks with the Government before the end of October.

## **Next Steps**

Darfur is at a critical crossroads. Armed movements can join together at the peace table, or they can remain fractured; civil society can remain in the shadows of the peace process, or we can make them a centerpiece of peace negotiations; humanitarian efforts can shift from emergency response to sustainable development, or IDPs can remain dependent on NGOs and without local capacity; local law enforcement can step up to provide the security needed to protect civilians, or lawlessness and banditry can continue to reign.

The United States will play a central role in setting the right course, but the responsibility for peace and security ultimately lies with the Government of Sudan and its people. As always, thank you for your continued interest and dedication, Scott.