

25 Nov 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- UNSG report aims at sabotaging peace efforts – Government (**Dailies**)
- NCP, SPLM reach deal on census results (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Sudan electoral board appeals for financial assistances (**ST**)
- Professor Akolda appointed NEC member (**Al-Ayyam**)
- State's adviser urges Kiir to step down (**Khartoum Monitor**)
- Egypt seeks to resume work on Jonglei Canal (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Egypt FM and spy chief fly to deliver letter from Mubarak to Al-Bashir (**ST**)
- SPLM bans SPLM-DC Political Activities in South Sudan (**Sudan Vision**)
- Budget constitutional despite SPLM absence (**Sudan Vision**)
- FVP Kiir and Museveni discuss order issues (**Al-Ayyam**)
- French foreign minister praises courage of Sudan's trouser journalist (**ST**)
- Eid holiday extended (**Dailies**)

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

UNSG report aims at sabotaging peace efforts – Government

Local dailies report Sudan Government has reacted to the latest report about Darfur by UNSG Ban Ki-moon, saying information contained in the report is incorrect.

According to **Al-Khartoum**, the Government has rejected and expressed astonishment over the report describing it as pessimistic. It pointed out that the tripartite mechanism between the UN, the AU and the Sudanese Government is the authorized body to assess UNAMID performance and to determine the way forward.

Director of Political Affairs at the Presidency Ambassador Osman Nafie said the report was unfortunate and aims at sabotaging ongoing peaceful efforts to resolve the Darfur problem. He called for the disclosure of the sources of the information contained in the report. "Does he (SG) get information from his Mission in Sudan," he wondered. He said Ki-moon's report contradicts with statements by AU-UN mediator Bassole and US envoy Gration.

Al-Ahdath reports spokesperson of Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muawia Osman has described the report as "bad" and runs counter to the reports presented by former JSR Adada and UNAMID FC Gen. Aqwai besides the positive conclusions of the tripartite mechanism between UN, AU and the Sudanese Government. He pointed out that the statement by the Sudan Ambassador to UN was misunderstood; adding it was also taken out of its context.

Meanwhile, **Al-Ahdath** report that SLM Chairman Minni Minnawi has criticized Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem's statement on the need for UNAMID to leave Darfur, describing the call as illogical and it contradicts the reality and the international charters. SLM spokesperson Zuelnoon Suleiman said peace in Darfur has not been completed and that UNAMID is the guarantor for the peace process.

NCP, SPLM reach deal over census results

Al-Ayyam has learned that the NCP and the SPLM have reached a deal on the dispute over the census results. As per the deal, SPLM's seats in the National Parliament would be increased to 25% + 1. However, the sources said no breakthrough was reached on the referendum issues.

Sudan electoral board appeals for financial assistances

Sudan Tribune website 25/11/09 — The National Election Commission of Sudan has called for financial assistance to support upcoming countrywide elections due in April 2010.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in Khartoum, Abel Alier, chairman of the National Electoral Commission, on Monday 23, said his commission seeks urgent financial supports from both the GoNU and international community. "We are asking international organizations and governments to honor and deliver their pledges for successful conduct of the upcoming elections in the country, he stressed.

However, he admitted having received assistances from some countries and international organization but said the received funds were for publicity. "We actually received the money but were specifically meant for the media, saying he encouraged countries and organizations to work with the commission." "The commission needs your assistances; we are seeking their help

and welcome wanting to see what we are doing with the assistance they provide," he added.

Professor Akolda appointed NEC member

Prof. AKolda Manteur Achir was sworn in as National Elections Commission (NEC) member, **Al-Ayyam** reports. President Al-Bashir, addressing the sworn-in ceremony has affirmed his support for the NEC and his keenness to ensure the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.

State's adviser urges Kiir to step down

An SPLM member and adviser to the Unity state's Governor, William Tuil joined the SPLM-DC and urged South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit to step down from his post, **Khartoum Monitor** reports. Tuil at a press conference yesterday in Khartoum announced his defection from the SPLM and joined the SPLM-DC. "I advise you to step down sincerely; you will be clean and clear to the people of the South". The Speaker has accused Kiir of failing the south Sudan, adding that if there is a democratic system, a vote of no confidence would have been passed by the Parliament against him.

Egypt seeking to resume work at Jonglei Canal

Egypt's minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Dr. Mohamed Nasreldin announced that he would send a team of experts to the Sudan after the Eid holiday to discuss the possibility of resuming work at the southern Sudan's Jonglei canal which is expected to provide Egypt with nearly 4 billion cubic metres of water besides its present share estimated at 55.5 billion cubic metre annually, **Al-Ayyam** reports.

Egypt FM and spy chief fly to deliver letter from Mubarak to Bashir

Sudan Tribune website 24/11/09 – The Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit and intelligence chief Omer Suleiman are set to arrive in Khartoum on Wednesday to deliver a letter from president Hosni Mubarak to Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir.

Sudan state media said that during the one day visit, the two men will discuss with Bashir bilateral issues and latest developments in the country but without giving details.

Egypt is also growing concerned over the probable secession of South Sudan in the 2011 referendum.

They will also reiterate Egypt's gratitude for Sudan's hosting of the world cup qualifier soccer match with Algeria. The game has resulted in deterioration of relations between Sudan and Egypt after accusations in the Egyptian media that Sudanese authorities failed in their duty to protect their fans from assaults by Algerians.

SPLM bans SPLM-DC political activities in South Sudan

Sudan Vision 25/11/09 - the SPLM-DC opposed directives issued by south Sudan government's presidential affairs minister, Luka Biong, on behalf of the President of south Sudan government and SPLM chairman, Salva Kiir, to all south Sudan states' governors ordering them not to cooperate with SPLM-DC and obstruct its political activities in the south.

At a press conference he held yesterday, SPLM-DC leader, Dr. Lam Akol said that his party had notified the head of the council of political parties' affairs and handed him a copy of a letter dated November 9th regarding the directives to ban his party activities in south Sudan; indicating the harassments his party has faced since its establishment. Akol considered SPLM's

actions as contravening the constitution and law, adding that his party has run out of means to deal with SPLM actions which he termed as violation of constitutional powers.

Akol threatened to resort to the Supreme Court to stop SPLM practices. He further affirmed that his party would not turn to regional or international organizations. He attributed SPLM's actions to incapability of promoting good governance in the south as well as failure to disarm militias, which lead to widespread inter-ethnic clashes.

Akol indicated the weakness of south Sudan government and lack of control, which culminated into chaos across the region. "It is regrettable to hear Salva use different rhetoric," he lamented, adding that Salva Kiir sometimes calls for attractive unity and on other occasions openly calls for secession.

Akol affirmed his party would take Kiir's statements seriously, blaming SPLM for not capitalizing on its presence in the national unity government to promote its political and economic platform for Sudan.

Budget constitutional despite SPLM absence

Sudan Vision 25/11/09 -The National Congress Party (NCP) rejected the SPLM charge with regard to unconstitutionality of the budget for the year 2010 which has been endorsed by the Parliament recently.

In exclusive statement to Sudan Vision yesterday, the Acting Head of the NCP MPs bloc Prof. Al-Amin Dafallah called on the SPLM MPs to substantiate their charges.

He explained that the Parliament has endorsed the budget by the legal quorum indicating that the attendance e was more than 50%.

FVP Kiir and Museveni discuss border issues

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and Ugandan President Museveni met yesterday with President of Uganda Yowerio Museveni for discussion on ways to resolve border issues between the southern Sudan and northern Ugandan, **Al-Ayyam** reports.

French foreign minister praises courage of Sudan's trouser journalist

Sudan Tribune website 24/11/09 — France's foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, today commended the courage of Lubna Hussein a Sudanese journalist and women's rights activist who was recently released from jail after charges of violating Sudan's rigid dress code.

"We are all concerned by this (situation) because the subject of the violation of human rights, particularly the rights of women, affects us all," said Kouchner in a joint press conference with the Sudanese journalist who is visiting the French capital this week.

"It is a very great struggle," he further said adding "It is a very important struggle for Arab women and for African women." The minister also disclosed that Lubna would receive soon an award in Cairo from an Arab Women's organization for her work.

Kouchner said Tuesday that 43,000 women were arrested in and around the Sudanese capital alone in such cases last year.

Last July Lubna had been arrested by Public Order Police along with a dozen other girls and charged with dressing inappropriately. She also resigned from her post at the UNMIS to waive

her immunity bestowed upon employees of the world body.

The minister stressed that Lubna has not only fought against her arrest, "she had the courage to speak out against the article 152 of the Islamic law which is applied in Sudan since President Bashir is in power."

Article 152 of the Sudanese Penal Code 1991 states, in summary, that: Whoever does in a public place an indecent act or wears an obscene outfit shall be punished with flogging which may not exceed forty lashes or with fine or with both.

"This woman is a model for her great simplicity and her persistent courage," he added, noting that France considers itself "a comrade in her struggle."

The ex-employee at the United Nations Mission Sudan (UNMIS) has used her case to draw attention to a law that allows flogging as a punishment for any acts or wearing clothing that are viewed as offending morals.

The Sudanese journalist who is in Paris to promote for a book she wrote about her case told reporters she had been unfairly banned from leaving her country but got out by hiding under a head-to-toe Islamic niqab.

Lubna left Khartoum for the Yemeni capital Sana'a and paid a visit to Cairo and Amman where she had been invited by women organizations before proceeding to arrive in Paris.

"I have not fled the Sudan. The Constitution gives me a number of rights including the right to travel. Those who prevented me from traveling previously violated the constitution," she said.

The former French President, Jacques Chirac also received today the Sudanese journalist to show his solidarity with her cause.

Eid holiday extended

The Presidency has agreed to a request by the Workers Union and extended the Eid holiday until Monday Nov 30, **local dailies** report. Employees will report for duty on December 1st.