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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Don't mix politics with Darfur crisis. [Editorial]. *Gulf News (UAE)*.06/04/2009. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2009-04-06GVEL-7QUL9Z>
- Arab League's selective silence. [Editorial]. *The Boston Globe*.04/04/2009. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2009-04-06GVEL-7QUPRT>
- The bigger issue in Sudan . [Op-Ed]. By Shlomo Ben-Ami. *The New Times (Rwanda)*.06/04/2009. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2009-04-06BSUE-7QUL8N>
- To help Sudan. [Op-Ed]. By Walid M. Sadi. *Jordan Times*.05/04/2009. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2009-04-06GVEL-7QUKZP>

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

Obama is under pressure to implement anti-Sudan agenda - Mutrif

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Khartoum yesterday announced readiness to engage in dialogue with the Obama Administration but indicated the US Administration is under pressure to implement anti-Sudan agenda. Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq said the government would not discontinue dialogue with the US. He also added one of the negative effects of the ICC was that JEM leader had announced that he would not participate in Doha talks. According to **Al-Sahafa**, Siddiq accused unidentified circles of seeking to divide the country. "The Government will leave no room for southern Sudan secession," he said.

Ocampo, Ki-moon relationship "bad" – UN

Many of today's Khartoum dailies have circulated the London-based **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat's** story about the state of relationship between the SG Ban Ki-moon and the ICC Prosecutor Louis Moreno-Ocampo. **Al-Rai Al-Aam** cites UNGA sources that the relationship between the SG and the ICC Prosecutor is "very bad". SG office unnamed source told **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** yesterday that the relationship between the two men reached a point where "they do not stand each other" and is increasingly deteriorating ever Ocampo presented an application for an arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir. Western diplomatic sources said the SG was aware of the consequences of the proceedings against Al-Bashir and that he sought to convince the SC P5 to stop the indictment. The sources said Ki-moon had suggested the indictment of the persons on the list of the Panel of Experts which was dispatched by the SG instead of President Al-Bashir. Diplomatic sources revealed to **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** that the SG met with Sudan ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem before leaving for Doha and he informed him about his desire to meet with President Al Bashir on the sidelines of the summit. However, the sources said a UN legal adviser advised the SG not to meet with President Al-Bashir. The SG was criticized for taking part in a summit attended by President Al Bashir.

NEC to set up committees to run elections

Al-Raed reports the NEC deputy chairman Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah as saying that the Commission would form independent elections committees in states to prepare for the elections process.

On the same subject, **Al-Akhbar** reports the Presidency will meet in the next few coming days to discuss the preparations for the upcoming elections and the census results. The paper's source described the prospective meeting as "crucial". Meanwhile, about 36 personalities representing civil society associations, research, academic and cultural centres across the country, have announced the formation of the "Sudan's Elections Forum" to be the nucleus for a broader alliance of civil society groups with aim at contributing efforts to ensure success of the upcoming elections process. Meanwhile, the paper learned that PNC leader Hassan Al-Turabi has requested a meeting between his party leaders and the NEC and that the Commission agreed and fixed a date for the meeting. The paper described the request for the meeting as "dramatic development". According to **Al-Wifaq**, the census results would be released on Saturday.

SPLM denies knowledge about move to probe FM

Ray Al-Shaab reports SPLM deputy chairman Malik Aqar as saying that SPLM has not been informed officially by the Presidency about a move to summon FM Deng Alor over statements he made in Washington. "We have no knowledge about that. SPLM will respond when officially informed about that," he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Deng Alor has downplayed news that the Presidency might summon him over statements. He told **Al-Rai Al-Aam** that he visited the US as SPLM official not as Foreign Minister. "We have the right to raise the viewpoints that concern SPLM," he said, noting his statement about the ICC and the INGO ouster in Washington represent SPLM stance. He said that after the ICC decision is issued dialogue must take place with the Security Council to avert confrontation with the International Community and at the same time there should be cooperation with the ICC. He said while the NCP is refusing readmission of the ousted INGOs, SPLM is for their return. Alor also confirmed that US is desirous of engaging in an unconditional dialogue with the Sudanese Government.

"Deng Alor was sent by the FVP Salva Kiir and it is only Kiir who can summon him to account for any statements. SPLM Ministers are not school boys to be taught what to say and what not to say," SPLM spokesperson Yen Mathew said, according to **Al-Sahafa**.

According to **Sudan Tribune website**, 6/4/09 Alor who was speaking last Wednesday at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars said that he was not consulted about the government's decision to expel the groups from North Sudan. Furthermore despite his position as a Foreign Minister he was excluded from a meeting between VP Taha and former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held last September. Alor had angered his partners at the NCP when he publicly spoke about cooperation with the ICC.

Final agreement on national security law within 48 hours – Machar

GoSS VP Riek Machar said SPLM and NCP are working on the final touches of the national security law and a final agreement on the bill would be reached within 48 hours, reports **Al-Wifaq**. He said the SPLM legal committee also finalized drafting the South Sudan and Abyei referendum bills as well as the popular consultations laws for Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile areas, PDF, public order and Sudan central bank laws which have been submitted to the NCP legal committee for discussion.

SAF, SPLA JIUs clash in Upper Nile

Al-Wifaq cites informed sources that fierce clashes occurred yesterday between SAF and SPLA JIUs in Al-Jammam area northeast of the Upper Nile city of Malakal. An Unnamed source told the paper that SPLM force attacked a SAF platoon in the area yesterday but did not elaborate about the reasons for the attack. According to the sources, both sides suffered casualties and that two SAF officers and seven soldiers were killed.

China to inject 60 million Yuans for Sudan humanitarian effort

As part of its commitment to peace and stability in Sudan, the Chinese Ambassador to Khartoum told HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed yesterday that his government would expedite paying its pledge of 60 million Yuans for the humanitarian effort in Darfur, reports **Al-Khartoum**. Commissioner Hassabo told the ambassador that expulsion of the aid agencies had not affected the humanitarian situation in the region.

US envoy meets VP Kiir in Juba

FVP Salva Kiir said GoSS would provide the necessary assistance to help facilitate implementation of US-funded development projects in southern Sudan, reports *Al-Ahdath*. Talks between FVP Kiir and US Special Envoy Scott Gratian yesterday focused on issues pertaining to Sudan-US relations, the implementation of the CPA, the SPLM and GoSS position on the ICC, Darfur, Abyei and the upcoming elections.

South Darfur deputy governor survives attempt on his life

Al-Sudani reports South Darfur Deputy Governor Farah Mustafa has survived an attempt on his life. Five unidentified gunmen opened fire on Mustafa's motorcade yesterday at Adar area, 39 km south of Nyala, while en route from Kass to Nyala after attending inauguration ceremony of the new Kass Commissioner.

Websites/International News Coverage

Crisis looms between NCP & SPLM over Sudan census outcome

Sudan Tribune website, 6/4/09 (PARIS) – SPLM SG Pagan Amum said that “discrepancies” are behind the delay in releasing the fifth national census results, adding that previous census could be considered as basis to next year elections.

The fifth Sudan Population and Housing Census, a milestone in the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was conducted from 22nd to 30th April 2008. It was the first all inclusive census for people of southern Sudan since the country's independence in January 1956.

In an interview with the Netherlands based radio Dabanga to be aired on Tuesday, Amum stated there is disagreement between northern and southern Sudan census commissions over the results of the census. Pagan added “the result may be questionable and we do not know whether it would be valid ground for the upcoming general elections”. “Probably without the census results we could rely on former statistics such as the 1956 census” he said.

The first Population Census was done by the British colonial power at the time during 1955-1956 and completed within a year and a half. It had made remarkable use of traditional administration (chiefs of the tribes). The total population was 10.1 millions and adjusted to 10.3 millions.

The southern Sudanese political forces also agreed that “In case of rejection of the census results, Southern Sudan shall maintain its present status - 1/3 of Sudan's population until proper census is conducted”.

The most recent U.N. estimate for Sudan's population is 37.8 million but the numbers are difficult to verify because of Sudan's huge internal displacement and also tens of thousands of Sudanese who have fled fighting over the years to neighboring countries.

Nuba Mountains' authorities decry loss of aid due to expulsion

Sudan Tribune website, 6/4/09 (KAUDA) – Authorities in the Nuba Mountains representing the Sudan People's Liberation Movement complained against the expulsion of aid groups from Northern Sudan, calling it a breach of the 2005 CPA.

A humanitarian assessment mission has completed its report on Darfur, and another is now

visiting other areas of Northern Sudan affected by the expulsion, including Nuba Mountains. Six organizations expelled from the area are Save the Children-USA, Mercy Corps, PAEDCO, Norwegian Refugee Council, CARE, and International Rescue Committee.

In a document presented yesterday to the Joint Assessment team formed by the UN, Government of Sudan, and Southern Kordofan State government, the SPLM leaders called the move a breach of the CPA caused because “the National Congress Party did not consult its partner in government (SPLM) which will contribute more to lack of trust between the two.”

According to the statement issued from Kauda, local markets are hurt by the departure of the aid workers, mortality among women and children has increased due to scarcity of health centers and the absence of ambulance services, and employees of the international NGOs are left without means to provide for their families.

The authorities closely detailed the projects affected by the departure of the aid groups, but they also indicated more vaguely that the expulsion order resulted in the “creation of an environment charged with depression that may lead to conflicts.”

SPLM-Nuba Mountains Region added that the expulsion has “created an environment of disharmony and lack of congruence between the two partners in government that adds to weakening trust building.”

In the wake of the NGOs’ departure, GOSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit offered the humanitarian groups the option of operating from Southern Sudan, a strategy endorsed by the Nuba administrators.

Yesterday the region’s SPLM officials faulted both the government of Southern Kordofan State and that national government for never having allocated a budget for service delivery since the signing of the CPA.

This complaint was cited by the Nuba Mountains authorities as a reason for mistrusting the government-proposed alternative to the ousted aid groups, a scheme to “Sudanize” aid efforts across the country within one year. The authorities questioned the government groups’ “professionalism, financial viability, ethics and their adherence to international humanitarian laws.”

“These alternative organizations have never initiated any projects in the past to serve the area, why now?” asked the SPLM officials.

Sudan government officials have called the expulsion order “irreversible” and accused the ousted groups of illegally passing information to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Nevertheless, Nuba Mountains authorities called on the Humanitarian Aid Commission to “adhere to its ethical principles and do its mandated humanitarian activities without mixing it with politics and to be impartial in its approach.”

Sudan government declines to fully meet Abyei arbitration costs

Sudan Tribune website, 6/4/09 (JUBA) – The Government of Sudan has declined to fully meet one million dollars of expenses incurred by SPLM for the arbitration tribunal at The Hague, disclosed Hon. Arop Madut Arop, who hails from Abyei in Warrap State of Southern Sudan.

According to Article 11 of the arbitration agreement signed in Khartoum on July 7, 2008 by Vice

President Ali Osman Taha and SPLM Deputy Chairman Riek Machar Teny, the Presidency of the Republic of Sudan is to required to order payment of the cost of arbitration from the federal budget.

Hon. Arop claimed that on December 18, 2008 the government paid only 500,000 dollars advance to enable the arbitration process to begin but when the government realized they are going to lose the case, they started tricks of buying time by only paying 200,000 USD while from the backdoor seeking to persuade the SPLM delegation to settle the dispute outside of the international court.

The lawmaker noted that an SPLM member from Warrap constituency is a member of the SPLM delegations to the Abyei Arbitration Tribunal.

The Hague-based tribunal must issue its final decision no later than the end of July of this year.

Sudan steps up efforts to free kidnapped aid workers

Reuters, 6/4/09, KHARTOUM - Sudan on Monday said it was trying to free two foreign aid workers kidnapped in the second abduction of international relief staff in its Darfur region in less than a month.

The kidnappings were another blow to the humanitarian effort in Sudan's violent west, already hit by a spike in bandit attacks on staff, the abduction of four workers for Medecins Sans Frontiers in March and a government decision to close down 16 aid agencies.

"The government is making every effort it can to free them," Foreign Ministry official Ali Youssef Ahmed said. He said he could not comment on whether Sudanese officials had managed to contact the kidnappers, or whether the kidnappers had made any demands, for fear of jeopardizing efforts to free the women.

Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission, which coordinates the work of aid groups in Sudan, declined to comment on the kidnapping, as did U.N. officials in the country.

Kidnappings of foreign aid workers were almost unheard of in Darfur before a group calling itself the Eagles of Bashir seized four employees of the Belgian arm of Medecins Sans Frontieres in North Darfur last month. The MSF workers were released unharmed three days later

Sudanese government officials said the abductors in North Darfur had been protesting against the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Aid workers told **Reuters** international aid groups had already started pulling their foreign staff out of remote outposts following the kidnappings.

"If this is the start of a new trend, international aid groups are going to have to consider whether they should keep their international staff outside Darfur's main region capitals, particularly in field locations where they are so vulnerable," said one aid official who asked not to be named.

Latest developments in Darfur focus of UN-African Union meeting

UN News Centre, 6/4/09 – UNAMID officials were in Addis Ababa today, where they briefed the AU Peace and Security Council on the latest security and humanitarian situation in the war-torn western region of the Sudan.

The AU-UN JSP Rodolphe Adada briefed the Council on the impact of the arrest warrant issued at the beginning of last month by ICC for Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir.

Mr. Adada also briefed the Council on the current military strength of UNAMID, which stands at more than 12,000 of the 19,555 force authorized by the Security Council over one year ago.

The AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, also attended the briefing to discuss the arrest warrant with the AU Council as well as the recent peace initiative resulting from the Summit of the League of Arab States in Doha and its consequences for his mediation efforts.

Participants from the Government of Sudan and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) took part in today's meeting in the Ethiopian capital, which is also the headquarters of the AU. Deputy Joint Special Representative Hocine Medili, Deputy Joint Chief Mediator Azouz Ennifar and the Director of the Communications and Information Division of UNAMID, Kemal Saïki, also participated.

AFP 6/4/09 reported JSR Adada as saying that an international arrest warrant against Sudan's president has made little impact on the security in the conflict-torn Darfur region.

"Contrary to the majority of alarmist scenarios and analyses these last few months, this decision has not had a major impact in terms of security, nor has it sparked more violence," AU special representative Rodolphe Adada told the body's peace and Security Council in the Ethiopian capital.

Adada, who is also the United Nations secretary general's representative for Darfur, said in prepared remarks the Sudanese government had also put in place new security measures in Darfur.

Adada, who is expected to address the UN Security Council later this month, said the UN and the Sudanese government were trying to fill the void left by the relief groups. He also warned of a fresh flood of refugees triggered by fighting between rebels and government forces in southern Darfur.

A joint AU-UN peacekeeping force was taking steps to deal with possible clashes between displaced people and the local population, Adada said.

Kerry to discuss peace accord in Sudan

AFP, 6/4/09 WASHINGTON - Democratic US Senator John Kerry will discuss US-Sudan relations and snarled efforts to implement a 2005 north-south peace deal when he visits the country next week, an aide said Monday.

But the top lawmaker will not meet with President Omar al-Bashir, the aide told AFP. Kerry, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "will discuss US-Sudan relations and the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement," reached in 2005 the aide said.

The aide declined to say whether the Massachusetts Senator and former US presidential candidate would visit Darfur, after a US official in Khartoum said that Kerry would travel to the strife-torn Sudanese region.

"John Kerry will arrive in the middle of next week, he will visit Darfur and meet with officials in

the country. His visit will last a few days," said that official, who requested anonymity.

Implementation of the 2005 agreement, which ended Sudan's two-decade north-south civil conflict, has hit many snags, but some leaders in the region have suggested that the ICC warrant should be deferred if Beshir implements existing peace accords.

US President Barack Obama's new Sudan envoy Scott Gration is currently in Sudan, where he appealed for stronger relations with Khartoum and met several Sudanese officials. Gration was in south Sudan on Monday and might meet Beshir in Khartoum before returning to the United States at the end of the week.

Obama had said his envoy would try to kick start discussions between rebels and the government in order to end the conflict in Darfur.

Interview

Below are excerpts from an interview from two parts with Dr. Muttrif Sidiq appearing on *Akhir Lahza* daily of 6 and 7 April 2009.

Asked to respond to statements in the US by Foreign Minister Deng Alor denying knowledge beforehand of the government decision to expel NGOs from Darfur, he said "not even President Al-Bashir knew of this decision beforehand. The decision was taken by a technical body at the HAC that monitors NGO activities. The decision took a political turn because it coincided with the ICC warrant. We then sent a joint assessment team to the region to refute claims that these agencies were donor agencies and provided 60% of the humanitarian needs for the region. The assessment showed that the agencies were implementing partners in health, water and non-food items distribution and that any humanitarian gap would not be evident before two months. Then we looked into coordination between the HAC, the UN and the other local and foreign agencies still operating in Darfur on how to fill the gap. The third stage was to form a joint needs assessment team for the Three Areas. The final stage is to look into means to strengthen the capacities of national NGOs to enable them fully carry out their duties and ultimately Sudanize voluntary work within the year".

On whether government would dismantle the IDP camps as a way to counter the NGO ouster, he said "an end to this state of displacement is necessary once the political and security conditions that led to it no longer exist. Returns should however be on a voluntary basis and with an encouraging climate in place. IDPs who opt not to return to their villages may resettle in the camp areas on demarcated plots with land tenure arrangement and enjoying the same rights as any other citizen".

On possibilities the visit by the African Elders' Panel may result in negative reports as did the visit of the ICC fact-finding mission earlier, he said, "I must confess we were mistaken in receiving the ICC team because we had already voiced opposition to UNSC Resolution 1593 that referred the Darfur issue to the ICC".

On the deferment of the elections date to February 2010, he pointed out the CPA notes that elections would take place within the fourth year of signing of the CPA, with six months give or take margin. Consequently, the February date is not a postponement of the elections and does not violate the agreement. July is the beginning of the rainy season and climatic conditions during that month do not make it a good time for the elections. December to April is a better period for the elections.

On what will happen if peace does not return to Darfur before the elections kick off he said "We strive to restore peace in Darfur before the elections but, if that doesn't happen, we could

exempt such areas from the vote until peace is restored”

Commentary

Implications of humanitarian activities in Darfur

Commentary by El-Tayeb Zeinalabdeen, Al-Sahafa 5/4/09

The decision taken by government to expel some NGOs from Darfur was a sovereign that would be difficult to repeal. The issue at hand is what effects such a decision would have on the estimated 1.5 million beneficiaries of the vital services that these agencies offered. The impact must not be minimized because this gap in humanitarian activities may be utilized to wage a new media and diplomatic war on the Sudan government and may open the doors for foreign intervention. A worsening of the humanitarian situation may also have negative impacts on the NCP come the elections, as Darfur is sure to be one of the hotly contested constituencies.

The government assured Sudanese in general and the people of Darfur in particular that it is willing and able, through cooperation with local and Arab voluntary agencies, to fill the 4.5% humanitarian gap left by these agencies.

I call upon government to meet the pledges it made and to provide sufficient support to local NGOs to enable them meet those gargantuan responsibilities that far surpasses their human and financial capabilities. Just to have a picture of what it all entails, the expelled INGOs were hiring about 3,000 Sudanese staff. The Islamic Relief Agency had taken over one of the health centres in Mornei, West Darfur that was being run by Save the Children (SC-USA). The 47 Sudanese former employees of these agencies were receiving about 125,000 SDG a month in salaries. After a month of taking over the health centre, the agency received only 30,000 SDGs from the government. How long then could the agency meet the deficit in salaries for these staff members, leave alone meet the needs of the 18 health centres that were being run by the expelled NGO? Taking that health centre as an example of the costs entailed, then that means that the estimated 3,000 Sudanese employees of the expelled NGOs would have to be paid together a staggering 7 million SDG a month. All the local NGOs together received from the government a total of 500,000 SDG. The Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) has projected a budget of 286 million US Dollars to fill the gap left by these expelled agencies in the areas of food, health, environment, non-food items, water and sanitation, education, mobility, storing and overhead costs for the period from April to September this year. By all accounts, the sum is a big drain on the 2009 fiscal budget that was already wavering due to the drop in oil prices even before being further aggravated by the humanitarian gap and expenses incurred on counter-ICC activities. Then there is the problem of the end of service benefits of some employees of the ousted NGOs who do not wish to continue working in worse conditions.

Furthermore, authorities on the ground in Darfur had seized tens of NGO vehicles despite the laws that advise against this. The government faces the task of having to prove its credibility if it seeks to cooperate with the donor communities that funded those INGOs. No major setback may occur in the next two months because the WFP has pre-positioned enough quantities of food and non-food items to cover this period. The problems will start emerging after that. What plans does the government have to counter those problems?

Government hopes that many IDPs would go back to their villages to cultivate come the rainy season as happened last year and hope that the absence of NGOs in the IDP camps would discourage their return to the camps. Government has also received funding pledges of about 116 million US dollars – a considerably large sum of money that however falls way short of the SCOVA budgetary requirements for only three months. But then how much of these pledged funds would really get to be paid? Arab states had also pledged a total of 96 million US dollars for Sudan for a complete year and Sudan expects more funds from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Qatar and Kuwait.

There is no doubt that government has a flimsy plan that depends on propositions that are not

guaranteed such as that farmers would not return to the IDP camps after the rainy season and contributions from local and foreign groups. Government has therefore to exert efforts to bring about a climate that would discourage IDPs from returning to the camps. This could be done through improving security and services and by providing non-farming IDP communities livelihood incentives to return to their villages, follow up on the local and foreign contributions through semi full-time persons and to encourage major donor communities to offer their support through other INGOs.

The problem has to be resolved efficiently and through high levels of coordination between the government, the Humanitarian Aid Commission and local voluntary agencies. Government's courageous decision may bring about a crisis that is not less in intensity than the ICC if government chooses not to give the humanitarian situation in the ground in Darfur the seriousness and daily commitment