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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan commission meets tomorrow (Al-Ayyam)
- Bashir will win elections – Nafie (Al-Wifaq)
- IDPs protests lack of water in Kalma (Al-Sahafa)
- Abyei administration to be formed on Tuesday (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- UN Agencies meet GoSS (Al-Sahafa Aug. 2)
- Heavy rains halt IDPs return to southern Sudan (Ray Al-Shaab)
- Tripartite summit on Sudan-Chadian relations (Al-Sahafa)
- My candidacy has nothing to do with ICC – FVP (Al-Khartoum)
- No judiciary assessment by foreign bodies– Justice Minister (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Taha meets Arab League Secretary General (Al-Rai Al-Aam Aug. 1)
- Hundreds demonstrate in front of The Hague (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

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- Africans, Arabs differ in reasons for urging ICC suspension - expert (ST)
- UN reaffirmed its commitment to justice, security in Darfur - HRW (ST)
- Ugandan president does not condemn ICC indictments against Sudan's Bashir (ST)
- South Africa's Mbeki to visit Sudan over ICC issue (ST)
- African Union chief to discuss ICC prosecution with Sudan president (ST)

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Highlights

Local news coverage (Arabic and English language press)

Elections Commission

Al-Sahafa reported that the government has begun consultations to nominate members of the National Elections Commission to be submitted to the National Assembly by the end of August. The opposition urged the Presidency to be impartial in selecting the Commission's members and chairman.

Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan commission meets tomorrow

Al-Ayyam stated that the Implementation Committee for Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan Protocols will meet tomorrow in Kauda (Nuba Mountains) to discuss progress of implementation of the two areas' Protocols. State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haround, said the meeting would listen to reports from the security arrangement commission of the two areas. According to Haroun the Federal Interior Minister, Federal Finance Minister, Defence Minister, Justice Minister, Presidency Affairs Minister, State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Governor of Southern Kordofan would participate in the meeting from NCP side while SPLM will be represented by SPLM deputy chairman, Governor of the Blue Nile State, JIU Commander and the Minister of

Bureau of Federal Government.

Bashir will win elections – Nafie

Al-Wifaq carried a report that the Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie speaking at tribal meeting yesterday said Bashir would be the NCP presidential candidate and he would win the elections whether the world likes it or not. "We will continue on our path despite colonials' conspiracies," he said. "Ocampo's indictment is intended to force Bashir to hand over Haroun and Koshayeb," he added. However, according to **Al-Intibaha** newspaper Nafie's statement was in reaction to a French initiative to address ICC indictment of President Bashir.

IDPs complains of lack of water in Kalma

Al-Sahafa (Aug. 2) stated that thousands of IDPs in Kalma camp in South Darfur staged a demonstration to protest discontinuation of water supply for the fifth consecutive day due to a lack of fuel to operate water supply stations. IDPs told the newspaper that authorities have prevented delivery of fuel to the camp to operate water stations arguing that the fuel might be diverted to support the armed movements. IDPs have appealed to the State Government and INGOs for immediate intervention.

Abyei administration

Al-Rai Al-Aam stated that the Presidency would meet on Tuesday to issue resolution on formation of Abyei

administration. SPLM source told the newspaper that Arop Moyak, GoSS's DDR official, would be SPLM's chief administrator in Abyei. The source said NCP should name a resident of the area to represent it.

UN Agencies meet GoSS

Al-Sahafa (Aug. 2) reported that UN Agencies announced that an estimated \$ 10 m was needed for humanitarian work to facilitate the return of IDPs to the Abyei area, according to Luka Biong, GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister. Biong said UN Agencies, some donors as well as non-humanitarian organizations met yesterday with GoSS in Juba to discuss voluntary return of IDPs to Abyei area.

Heavy rains halt IDPs return to southern Sudan

Ray Al-Shaab stated that the Refugees Commissioner Mohamed Ahmed Al-Aqbash said voluntary returns of IDPs and refugees to southern Sudan have stopped due to heavy rains.

Tripartite summit on Sudan-Chadian relations

According to **Al-Sahafa** Sudan and Chad have agreed to resume diplomatic relations immediately, to end their propagandist campaigns and to hold a tripartite summit between Presidents Bashir, Deby and Kaddafi. A Libyan envoy, Abdul Salam Al-Tireiki, met President Bashir yesterday to convey a message from Kaddafi.

My candidacy has nothing to do with ICC – FVP

Al-Khartoum quoted the FVP Salva Kiir

as saying that SPLM's announcement that he would contest presidential elections had nothing to do with Ocampo's indictment of President Bashir. "It was mere coincidence," he said. "We will contest elections at all levels," he added. On Abyei, he said contacts were continuing to form the Abyei administration after which there would be no problems.

No judiciary assessment by foreign bodies – Justice Minister

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that Justice Minister, Abdul Basit Sabdarat, has denied that Sudan Government agreed to receive foreign bodies to assess the Sudanese judiciary. "The Sudanese judiciary is independent and beyond suspicion and will not be assessed by any foreign body," he said. "We will not prosecute Haroun in the absence of a complaint against him," he added.

Taha meets Arab League Secretary General

(Al-Rai Al-Aam Aug. 1) the Sudanese Vice President Taha met the Arab League Secretary General Amr Musa in Egypt to be briefed on outcomes of the League's contacts to address Ocampo's application against Bashir. Musa said the League submitted to Sudan a proposal of five points to be carried out for addressing the issue. "Action to address the crisis should begin in Khartoum," said Musa at press conference after meeting Taha. Musa emphasized the need for implementing the "resolution package" to avail the opportunity to move the issue within the SC towards a solution.

Hundreds demonstrate in front of The

Hague to protest Bashir's indictment

Al-Rai Al-Aam carried a report that hundreds assembled yesterday at the Hague to protest Bashir's indictment. The demonstrators handed over a petition calling for the immediate halt of the indictment as it poses threat to ongoing efforts for peace in the Sudan. More than 600 persons from Germany, Belgium, UK and France among them Darfurians have participated in the demonstration.

ICC may complicate talks – Bassole

Al-Sahafa said that UN-AU chief mediator D'jibril Bassole had warned that Bashir's indictment could make peace talks in Darfur more difficult.

Website/International news coverage

Africans, Arabs differ in reasons for urging ICC suspension - expert

(Sudan Tribune) — The concern of AU countries for the safety of their peacekeepers was a significant factor in the AU decision to lobby the UN Security Council to suspend the ICC indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, a peacekeeping expert told the Sudan Tribune this week.

"The timing of the indictment is the main issue for the African Union, not the indictment per se," said Sarjoh Bah, a professor at New York University and coordinator of Global Peace Operations for the Center on International Cooperation.

Bah remarked that there is a difference between the stance of the Arab League,

which condemned the ICC indictment itself, and the reaction of the AU, which has called for its suspension only.

UN reaffirmed its commitment to justice, security in Darfur - HRW

(Sudan Tribune) – A rights watchdog has hailed SC's renewal of the mandate for peacekeepers in Darfur without delaying legal proceedings against Sudan's president. This move reaffirms a commitment to justice and security for Sudanese civilians, Human Rights Watch said.

"The Security Council refused to allow some members to hold the peacekeepers hostage to Sudan's latest attempt to derail justice," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch.

The right group also said Sudanese government rejected to cooperate with the international justice and didn't hand over two suspects in a first case to the ICC.

HRW considered the U.S. abstention from take part in the vote is "a message about bringing al-Bashir to justice"

"The US decision to abstain is clearly a vote against giving President al-Bashir a get-out-of-jail-free card."

Concerned that the agreed compromise resolution sent too weak a message about bringing al-Bashir to justice, the US abstained on the vote.

Ugandan president does not condemn ICC indictments against Sudan's Bashir

(Sudan Tribune) – The Ugandan President today said he does not condemn the indictment by the International Criminal Court Prosecutor adding that Africans are to be blamed for not

investigating Darfur crimes.

"The correct position of the AU should be to investigate ourselves. We don't condemn the indictments but the AU should conduct investigations itself so that we decide on our own," Yoweri Museveni said in a press conference on Saturday.

"You may get people misbehaving. Is it Bashir who ordered them to do so?" Museveni wondered, replying to a journalist's question.

"You cannot stand up and say: 'Don't touch Bashir because he is a president.' Suppose he made those mistakes. If you take that position, you will be ignoring the right of the victims," he added.

After talks with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on July 30 in Kampala, Museveni supported the African Union's position that Bashir be given time to implement a ceasefire in the western Sudan region of Darfur.

Eight days before on July 22, Museveni held talks with the Sudanese First Vice President, Salva Kiir Mayadrit. In a joint press conference, the Ugandan President said Bashir's indictment would hinder the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Due to his bad relations with president Bashir, Museveni was the sole head of state to be met by Salva Kiir Mayadrit who is also the head of a crisis committee to deal with Darfur crimes case against the Sudanese president.

Museveni further said he believed that Sudan had also "committed war crimes by supporting the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army" which fight against Museveni army since 21 year in northern Uganda

South Africa's Mbeki to visit Sudan over ICC issue

(Sudan Tribune) — South African President reaffirmed on Saturday he would travel soon to Sudan to discuss with his Sudanese counterpart a possible arrest warrant against him over Darfur crimes.

Last week, Thabo Mbeki joined calls for suspension of Omer al-Bashir's indictment saying it would destroy efforts for peace in Darfur and hinder the implementation of another peace agreement in the south.

The announcement made today about his imminent trip to Khartoum didn't provide a date for the visit, but it seems that it would take place in the coming days. President Mbeki made this statement after a meeting with the Sudanese Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail in Pretoria today.

African Union chief to discuss ICC prosecution with Sudan president

(Sudan Tribune) - African Union chief is expected in Sudan on Sunday for talks with President Omar al-Beshir, whose arrest over war crimes was demanded last month by the ICC.

In a statement issued Saturday at its Addis Ababa headquarters, the continental body said Jean Ping and AU peace and security commissioner Ramtane Lamamra would be in Sudan for two days to meet Beshir and other top officials.

The AU delegation will arrive to Khartoum on Sunday evening and meet Bashir and other officials on Monday. It comes after

the pledge by the U.N. Security Council to discuss the possible suspension of the prosecution by the ICC of Darfur crimes.

The talks were aimed at "facilitating the diligent and effective implementation" of the decisions reached by the peace and security commission's latest meeting on Sudan, it said.

The African Union's Peace and Security Council also called for the creation of a panel of distinguished Africans to come up with recommendations on how to address issues of accountability and reconciliation raised by the conflict.