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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## (Local Arabic and English language press)

### *Kiir-led ICC crisis management panel met*

Chaired by Salva Kiir, the ICC Crisis Management Committee held a second meeting yesterday to listen to two reports on legal and diplomatic campaigns to refute Ocampo's application, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** daily Arabic newspaper. State Minister for Information and Communication Kamal Obeid said the Committee emphasized the need to expedite a meeting of political forces to debate on an initiative to address Darfur and to accelerate reconciliations and security arrangements to re-knit Darfur's social fabric. The committee will hold its third meeting on Thursday.

### *NCP, SPLM agree to address insurgency in the Nuba Mountains*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reported that the committee set up to remove obstacles preventing the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan State Governments from asserting their full control concluded its meetings yesterday in Kadugli. The committee recommended the need for quick integration of SPLA soldiers in Southern Kordofan in the State's police and to provide the needs necessary for the integration process. The committee, chaired by the Presidency Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh, recommended roads construction and communication network in the Nuba Mountains and promised to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid to the area. Rapporteur of the committee, Ahmed Haroun, said the committee also recommended necessary legal and security measures against attempts by Balula to start rebellion in Southern Kordofan.

### *NCP and SPLM to submit names of representatives to The Hague*

NCP and SPLM will submit names of their representatives to the Hague on 15 August for arbitration on Abyei, reported **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper. SPLM leader Luka Biong told SUNA that NCP and SPLM consultations were continuing to overcome an obstacle over selection of deputy chief of Abyei administration.

### *Commission recommends enhancement of non-Muslims status in Khartoum*

**Khartoum monitor** reported that the Special Commission for the Rights of non-Muslims in the national capital recommended the amendment of criminal law 1991 to conform to the constitution and not to apply Sharia law on non-Muslims. It also recommended teaching of a Christian religion subject to Christian students at basic and secondary schools, to increase coverage of the activities of non-Muslim on national media and to allocate land for building places of worship for non-Muslims.

### *Southerners recruited in civil services*

**El Sharee El Siasi** stated that the Civil Service Commission recruited 700 southern graduates in the civil service, based on results of interviews conducted recently in Khartoum to absorb 20 to 30% of southerners as per the CPA.

### *Bashir to participate in Turkey summit*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** learned that AU was making necessary preparations to hold AU summit in Turkey. Sources said preparations were also underway for President Bashir's participation in the summit. An advance Sudanese delegation will visit Turkey to arrange for Bashir's participation.

### ***Hamas supports Bashir***

**Al-Khartoum** reported that Hamas Politburo chairman Khaled Masha'l at meeting with President Bashir yesterday expressed his movement's solidarity with Sudan over ICC. Bashir and Masha'l have discussed developments of situations in Palestine and Sudan.

### ***Russia promises to use veto to protect Sudan***

**Al-Intibaha** stated that State Minister for Roads and Bridges Mabrook Mubarak said Russia promised to veto arrest warrant for Bashir. He said intensive contacts were continuing with Darfur armed movements to ensure their participation in a forum to resolve the problem in the region.

Mabrook was speaking at press conference yesterday upon return from Libya where he met Kaddafi for discussion on ICC and Darfur. He said at the press conference that Kaddafi had sent his Prime Minister to Russia who reported back that Moscow promised to veto arrest warrant for Bashir.

### ***Ocampo will never have Bashir –Bashir family***

President Bashir's family and relatives gathered yesterday at the Palace to express solidarity against ICC. "Ocampo will never have Al Bashir," the family representative Mamoun Omer told the gathering. "he will have Bashir only on the dead body of the last person in Sudan," he declared.

### ***US has no connection with Ocampo, Fernandez***

US Embassy is conducting open, sincere and important dialogue with some Sudanese officials, says US Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum Alberto Fernandez, according to **Sudan Vision** newspaper. However, Fernandez has declined to comment on whether the dialogue would be resumed at the level of US Special Envoy to Sudan. He highlighted religious tolerance as an important part of the CPA. He said the US Administration primarily focuses on implementation of the CPA while peace, tolerance and reconciliation in Darfur come as a second priority. He said the US Administration has no connection with the ICC and it does not aid or support the rebel factions in Darfur adding that the rebel factions may have received that support from Chad or Sudan's other neighbours.

### ***Anti-terror court (2) to pronounce verdict 17 Aug***

**Ray Al-Shaab** stated that anti-terror court (2) in Khartoum which is trying senior JEM leaders particularly Abdul Aziz Oshar, would pronounce its verdict on Sunday 17 August.

### ***50 persons killed, 5000 cattle looted in Jonglei***

Over 50 persons have been killed and more than 5000 heads of cattle looted in a dispute between residents of Khor Fulus and Attar in Jonglei State. The killing and looting was caused by a border dispute. Residents of the town of Attar appealed to GoSS President to intervene to prevent further escalation.

## **Website/International news coverage**

### ***Sudan appoints special prosecutor for Darfur war crimes***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – The Sudanese justice minister Abdel-Basit Sabdarat announced today the appointment of a special prosecutor to look into rights abuses committed in war ravaged region of Darfur since 2003.

Sabdarat named Nimr Ibrahim Mohamed as the Darfur prosecutor with 3 assistants; Kamal Mahjoub Ahmed, Al-Hadi Mahjoub Makkawi and Mamoun Mekki Hamid. The ministerial decree requests the newly appointed prosecutor to report monthly on the progress of his work.

### ***Study says China top violator of Sudan embargo***

**(ST/AP)** — China has been the "most egregious violator" of a worldwide arms embargo, providing Sudan with the vast majority of its small arms and weapons used for mass murder in Darfur province, a private study group is charging.

The arms and also political support are being swapped for access to the African country's oil reserves, according to a report issued on the eve of the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

A copy of the report, due to be released on Wednesday, was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Recognizing fast-developing China's need for energy, William Hartung, a veteran foreign policy analyst and author of the report for the New America Foundation, said the United States might consider energy cooperation with Beijing so it does not rely for oil on Sudan and other repressive regimes. The foundation is a private liberal group.

In 2004, the U.N. Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all groups operating in Darfur. The next year, the Council extended the ban to the government. The United States and several European countries have tried unsuccessfully to expand the sanctions.

Hartung in an interview said about \$150 million in weapons had been provided by China to Sudan in the last decade or so. The majority of the weapons were small arms, much of which found their way to Janjaweed, a notorious militia accused by human rights groups of killing and expelling hundreds of thousands of Darfur's indigenous population.

"I think China is a hard country to persuade, but I do think if there were carrots and sticks involved it might be possible to change their policy towards Sudan," he said.

According to a U.N. data bank, China is responsible for providing 90 percent of Sudan's small arms between 2004 and 2006, he said.

Through its state-owned companies, China controls almost all of Sudan's oil potential, the report said.

As "the supplier of last resort for dictators and human rights abusers," China is also a major weapons exporter to Zimbabwe, Myanmar and rebel groups in Congo, the report said.

Many of these exports have included Chinese assault rifles and Chinese sales also have involved such heavy weapons as tanks and fighter aircraft, the study said.

### ***African Union to create legal team for Darfur investigation***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – The African Union (AU) said it is drawing up a list of top lawyers to investigate Darfur war crimes in response to the move by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor to seek an arrest warrant for Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir.

“We have decided to create a panel of eminent lawyers which would come to work in Sudan. This has been fully accepted by Sudan” AU commission chairman Jean Ping told Agence France Presse in an interview on Monday.

This week Ping has warned that a request from the ICC prosecutor to arrest Al-Bashir had thrown “more oil in the fire”.

Ping said a team of “respected Africans” would come to Sudan “as soon as possible... to examine the situation, investigate themselves”.

He said the lawyers would conduct a similar investigation to that of The Hague-based court in order to show “what the ICC did or did not do”.

“We are going ourselves to investigate and work closely with the Sudanese government” he said. “Some of them may come from Africa; some of them may come from universities in England, in America, everywhere”.

It is not clear what the mandate of the legal team would be and whether it would conduct a full blown investigation in Darfur. No Sudanese official has commented on Ping’s statements.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted resolution 1564 in 2004 under Chapter VII forming a Darfur Commission of Inquiry.

The commission was “to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur by all parties, to determine also whether or not acts of genocide have occurred, and to identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable”.

The commission concluded that “that the Government of the Sudan and the Janjaweed are responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law amounting to crimes under international law”.

“Government forces and militias conducted indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement, throughout Darfur” the report said.

It also recommended that the UNSC refer the Darfur case to the ICC which occurred under resolution 1593 in March 2005.

Sudan has said that its local courts will be the ones responsible for investigating Darfur war crimes and refused any foreign monitoring for national proceedings.

### ***Darfur rebels appeal against death sentences***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Eight Darfur rebels convicted of terrorism offences for attacking the Sudanese capital have appealed against their death sentences, a member of the defence team said on Tuesday.

Lawyer Muez Hadra also told Reuters they had lodged a case at Sudan’s highest Constitutional Court asking it to stay the execution orders on the basis that the special courts formed to try

them contravened Sudanese laws.

"We have made one appeal for the eight people from the Khartoum court," Hadra said. "The rest we will appeal in the coming two days," he added.

According to the rules of the special courts trying the rebels they have one week to make their only appeal against their sentencing before the execution order is signed by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Last week, three courts sentenced 30 accused rebels to death by hanging.

Of the eight, Hadra said the appeal was based on the fact their lawyers were not allowed access to them ahead of the trial. "Also there is no evidence against these men - it's all based on the testimony of children who said they were tortured," he said.

Bashir last month pardoned the children Sudan said had taken part in the unprecedented attack on Khartoum by the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The minors remain in custody.

JEM denies having any child soldiers. More than 200 people were killed and hundreds of others injured in the May attack where rebels were stopped at a bridge over the river Nile leading to the presidential palace and army headquarters.

The defence team of Sudan's most high-profile rights lawyers say the rules of the special courts contravene the constitution of Sudan with trials allowed to continue even in the absence of the defence lawyers or the accused.

The lawyers had previously petitioned the land's highest court to stop the trials saying they were unconstitutional but that request was refused.

### ***Minnawi to soon determine when he will return to the Sudanese capital***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Senior Presidential Assistant and head of Darfur authority will determine next week the date of his return to Khartoum in order to resume his duties.

Minni Minawi left his palace office in the capital since more than two months to join his loyal troops in North Darfur to protest against the ill-implementation of a peace agreement signed with the Sudanese government on May 5, 2006.

At the end of last month, the former rebel leader sent a letter to the President Omer al-Bashir affirming his commitment to the full implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

Mustafa al-Jameel, information secretary in the Darfur Transitional Authority said today that Minawi is nearing completion of his tour in Darfur where he inspects troops. He further said that the senior assistant will determine next week the date of his return to Khartoum.

Jameel also said that Minawi held a series of meeting to discuss Darfur peace implementation with Rodolphe Adada, the head of the joint peacekeeping mission for Darfur, and General Martin Luther Agwai, the commander of the hybrid peacekeeping force

Different reports from Darfur speak about difference between the former rebel leader and his

commanders who criticise his failure to implement the deal and to achieve real change in their daily conditions.

Also many of his commanders are still in touch with the rebel groups opposed to the signed agreement and try to persuade them to defect from Minawi and join the rebellion.

### ***UN chief told needs "distance" from Bashir-diplomats***

**(Reuters)** U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been advised to "distance himself" from Sudan's president, who could face an international arrest warrant for genocide in Darfur, diplomats and U.N. officials said.

Last month ICC Chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo asked the court's judges to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Darfur region. Moreno-Ocampo accused the Sudanese leader of orchestrating a campaign of genocide that has killed 35,000 people outright, at least another 100,000 through starvation and disease and forced 2.5 million from their homes.

Diplomats and U.N. officials, all speaking on condition of anonymity, said the advice came from Ban's legal advisers, who said he should "distance himself politically" from Bashir due to the possibility that the ICC will issue the warrant. The sources, some of them speaking on Tuesday, were confirming a report in the pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat.

Ban's spokeswoman Michele Montas declined to comment on the issue but told reporters that if Ban did receive such advice it would be up to him as to whether or not he acts on it. One U.N. official said it was "common sense" advice. The last time U.N. officials confirmed Ban had spoken with Bashir was last month, shortly before the ICC crisis began.

It was not immediately clear what such political distancing would entail, since Ban needs to keep working closely with Bashir and his government on the Darfur peace process and to ensure the urgent full deployment of U.N.-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, known as UNAMID.

As security worsens in Darfur, only 9,500 out of a planned total of 26,000 UNAMID troops and police have been deployed so far due to the many demands the Sudanese government made on its composition and the failure of troop contributing countries to provide helicopters and other badly needed hardware.

Bashir has not been officially indicted by the ICC and if he is, it will probably take several months for the court to make a decision, diplomats and U.N. officials have said.

However, the advice from Ban's legal department highlights the kind of political tightrope the secretary-general will have to walk in his relations with Sudan. If Bashir is formally indicted, it could be risky for Ban to be seen publicly with him, since it might be seen as a criticism of the ICC in the Darfur case, diplomats said.

The African Union, Arab League and other alliances have urged the Security Council to block any ICC action against Bashir to avoid harming the fragile peace process in Darfur. The council approved a resolution last week extending the mandate of UNAMID for another year. It also "took note" of the AU's concerns about the ICC moves and its appeal to the council to freeze any indictment, something China, Russia, South Africa and others on the council say they want the council to do.

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem said that Khartoum "enjoys cordial relations with the secretary-general and does not want to react to media reports." However, he hinted that any "distancing" would not be welcome, since the United Nations is there to serve its 192 members. "The U.N. is not a supranational body but is in service of the member states," Abdalhaleem told Reuters.

Bashir has said that he would ignore any ICC arrest warrant, and Abdalhaleem has suggested that Bashir might appear in New York in September to address the U.N. General Assembly.

### ***Sudan asks Burkina Faso to block Bashir's indictment***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – Sudan has pressed the third member in the African group in the Security Council to support last week's efforts by Libya and South Africa to counter ICC prosecution of charges against President al-Bashir.

Burkina Faso supported the African initiative but in a low key manner. This was so as not to hinder efforts by former FM Djibril Bassolé recently appointed joint chief mediator for Darfur peace talks.

### ***50% of IDPs return home – North Darfur Governor***

**(SMC)** The Northern Darfur state governor Osman Mohammed Yousif Kibir said the situation there was calm and the atmosphere encourages repatriation of IDPs to their original villages. The governor gave this statement today when he met the Tanzanian visiting delegation. Kibir told the visiting delegation that 50% of total IDPs have returned to their areas.

### ***Joint UN-African Union mission in Darfur mourns loss of Nigerian officer***

5 August - The military chief of the United Nations-African Union (AU) mission in Darfur (UNAMID) today paid a condolence visit to members of the Nigerian company operating in Foro Baranga in West Darfur state following the loss of their commanding officer three weeks ago. Major Shehu Gada was shot dead on 16 July while on an administrative patrol.

During today's visit, UNAMID Force Commander General Martin Luther Agwai said that it would be a disaster to allow what happened to Major Gada to happen again and reminded the UNAMID peacekeepers that personal security is paramount.

"It is everybody's business and continues to be the collective responsibility of each one," he added.

The General's visit follows other visits from the UNAMID's headquarters to express deep sorrow and sympathy to all those in the mission's Nigerian contingent.

In a related development, a team from UNAMID's sector south headquarters conducted an air patrol to parts of South Darfur to investigate reports of aerial bombardment by the Sudanese Government. UNAMID said the visit was successful, and that a full report would be communicated soon.