

19th August 2008

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

CPA remains fragile – Qazi tells SC

Al-Sahafa and Al-Rai Al-Aam newspapers reported that SRSG Qazi briefed the SC yesterday on CPA implementation. “The foundations for peace in Sudan remain fragile in spite of progress in a number of areas” Qazi told the SC. “The prospects for the CPA are uncertain but not necessarily bleak”, he said. Qazi also referred to the Abyei roadmap, population census and developments with regard to elections.

Qazi said CPA was behind schedule but remains on track. He said the level of cooperation between the CPA partners has seen some improvement but the foundations of durable peace remain fragile.

“Although the working relationship between the North and South is cordial, but lack of trust is a major obstacle to make unity attractive and the peaceful implementation of the CPA,” SRSG Qazi said.

He referred to the progress achieved in DDR and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as development and recovery projects.

He said ultimate success would require the parties to realize that peace can only be consolidated through the full implementation of the Abyei road map adding that Abyei remains one of the biggest obstacles for CPA implementation.

“The perception that the over-focus on Darfur diverted attention from the CPA implementation is real, especially amongst the Southern Sudanese,” he added. He said this perception has to be changed through a tangible recognition of the centrality of the CPA.”

With regard to ICC, Qazi said he conveyed to the Sudanese Government that the Court is an independent institution and that UNMIS will continue to implement its mandate in the country.

Dead bodies impede return of IDPs to Abyei

Al-Sahafa learned from sources that JIUs in Abyei embarked on setting up checkpoints along the routes linking Abyei with the north and south while police units are working to address insecurity prior to return of IDPs who began cautiously and slowly returning to the area. A civil society activist Lual Kual said scattered dead bodies and lack of shelter are discouraging the returns. UNMIS is making efforts to improve the environment but the operation ceased when four bodies in a burned shop were discovered. He said Abyei Administration and GoSS Humanitarian Aid Commission were also readying the town to receive returning IDPs.

Beja Congress’ general convention decides to sack Amna Dirar, Nour and MP (Al-Sahafa)

Al-Sahafa carried a report that the Beja Congress’ second general convention decided to relieve Presidential Advisor Amna Dirar, Deputy Governor of Gedaref State Idriss Nour and MP

Saleh Hassaballah from their posts and called for appointment of special prosecutor for Port Sudan incidents. The convention issued statement to that effect.

ICC judges back from recess – begin considering Ocampo's application

Al-Sahafa stated that the ICC judges began considering yesterday Ocampo's application for arrest warrant for President Bashir. A source told the newspaper that the judges were back from a month-long recess.

164 Sudanese nationals complain to Foreign Ministry against UNAMID

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that 164 Sudanese nationals who were AMIS staff members before merger have lodged a complaint to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labour claiming that financial entitlement were not paid when their services were terminated. Most of the complainants were translators, others were drivers and cleaners.

We allowed UNAMID to use available facilities – GoS

Al-Rai Al-Aam quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq as saying that an agreement was reached between Government and UN whereby UN will renovate, electrify and expand runways of Darfur airports in return for using them.

He said the government allowed UNAMID to use available facilities adding that direct dialogue between Sudan Government and UN could lead to agreement on a range of issues if conducted away from interferences of other countries.

Presidency receives nominations for elections commission's membership

Al-Ayyam quoted NCP leader Ibrahim Gandoor as saying that NCP and SPLM agreed on membership of the elections commission and submitted it to the Presidency for endorsement. He said names of nine nominees were submitted to the Presidency and the nomination was based on competence, experience and impartiality.

Websites/International Headlines

Sudan's north-south accord fragile despite recent progress – UN envoy

(UN News Centre) – The foundations for a durable peace in Sudan remain fragile in spite of progress in a number of areas covered by the 2005 peace agreement which ended the country's long-running north-south civil war, a senior United Nations official said today.

Briefing the Security Council on recent developments, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, reported that implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), though behind schedule, remains on track.

The level of mutual cooperation between the two CPA partners – the Khartoum Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) – has shown some signs of improvement, he said.

"Nevertheless, the foundation for a durable peace remains fragile," warned Mr. Qazi, who also heads the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The Special Representative noted that the security situation remained "precarious" during the past several months, which witnessed deadly fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces

(SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the disputed town of Abyei, as well as an attack by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on Omdurman, near the capital.

While the working relationship between North and South Sudan is relatively cordial, the lack of mutual trust and confidence remains a significant obstacle to the goals of "making unity attractive" and a peaceful implementation of the CPA, he stated.

However, he added that "three years down the road the prospects for the CPA are uncertain but not necessarily bleak." Among other things, he noted the implementation of a recent agreement to settle the conflict over Abyei, the completion of the census enumeration and developments relating to the electoral process.

In addition, he cited progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, and said recovery and development projects have begun to make some difference on the ground.

"Ultimate success, however, will require the parties to realize that peace can only be consolidated through the full implementation of the Abyei road map," he stressed, echoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who in a recent report warned that the dispute over Abyei remains one of the biggest obstacles to implementing the CPA.

He added that should the CPA unravel the prospects for a peaceful outcome in Darfur will largely disappear. As many as 300,000 people are estimated to have been killed in that western Sudanese region as a result of direct combat, disease or malnutrition since 2003. Another 2.7 million people have been displaced because of fighting between rebels, Government forces and allied militiamen known as the Janjaweed.

"A successful implementation of the CPA brightens the prospects for peace in Darfur," stated Mr. Qazi.

"The perception that an over-focus on Darfur has diverted attention from the need to provide a peace dividend through the implementation of the CPA is real, especially amongst the Southern Sudanese," he added. "We have to change this perception through an emphatic and tangible recognition of the centrality of the CPA."

Regarding recent efforts by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek an indictment against the Sudanese President on genocide and war crimes charges, Mr. Qazi said he conveyed to the Sudanese Government that the Court is an independent institution and that UNMIS will continue to implement its mandate in the country.

Sudan warned UN of serious consequences over ICC warrant - envoy

(Reuters) - Sudan has warned the United Nations of "serious consequences" for its staff and facilities if the International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir over Darfur, a U.N. envoy said on Monday.

Addressing the U.N. Security Council, Ashraf Qazi, head of the U.N. mission charged with monitoring a 2005 peace accord between Sudan's north and south, said the mission was preparing for any such actions.

"The government has conveyed to me that the issuance of an arrest warrant against President Bashir could have serious consequences for U.N. staff and infrastructure in Sudan," Qazi said,

without specifying where the threat might come from.

"We are taking all necessary precautionary measures including strengthening our cooperation with Sudanese security institutions," Qazi said.

Khartoum has acknowledged the distinction between the ICC and the mandate of the two peacekeeping missions in Sudan, Qazi said. However he noted the Bashir government had called the ICC prosecutor's action a political and not a legal move.

Sudanese army delegation in Pakistan to discuss joint cooperation

(Sudan Tribune) – A Sudanese army delegation visited today the Pakistani Joint Staff Headquarters, to discuss joint cooperation in military production.

Since 2005 the two countries signed an agreement on joint military cooperation at all levels. Since Sudanese military from the different armies visit Pakistan to visit or discuss issue of mutual interest.

The latest visit was conducted by the Sudanese Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Al-Zain Hussein, last May.

A high level Sudanese joint services training delegation headed by Lt Gen., Ali Al-Sharif Al-Tahir, Joint Chief of Staff Operations visited the Pakistani Joint Staff Headquarters on Monday. The Sudanese military delegation discussed with acting Director General Joint Staff, Major General Qasim Qureshi matters pertaining to mutual interest and ways to further enhance bilateral ties in future.

Qureshi expressed satisfaction over ongoing military cooperation with Sudan and expressed hope that bilateral meetings would further enhance military to military relationship between both the countries.

While highlighting the achievements of Pakistan's defence industry, Qureshi proposed a visit by Sudanese technical delegation to Pakistan to evaluate specific areas of cooperation in field of defence production.

The Sudanese delegation also visited the Pakistani National Command Centre (NCC).

South Sudan celebrates Torit "revolution" day of 1955

(Sudan Tribune) – The semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan on Monday celebrated "Torit revolution day" of August 18, 1955, which is declared as the official commemoration 'Day of War Veterans' every year throughout the region.

The first rebellion of the people of Southern Sudan in protest of arrangements towards the would-be independent Sudan from the British colonial administration was declared in Torit town of the present Eastern Equatoria state just four months before the country gained its independence on January 1, 1956.

The Torit mutiny resulted into the Anya-nya I war that ended with the Addis Ababa Agreement in 1972.

Addressing the celebration in Juba, the First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, described the

Torit revolution as the starting point of the real political movement in Southern Sudan. Kiir also urged for recognition of war veterans who also fought for freedom, justice and equality in western, eastern and northern Sudan.

President Kiir underlined that the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1972 was the only agreement of which the people of Southern Sudan tasted the dividends of peace, but was violated by the Khartoum government's policy of divide and rule.

He said the people of Southern Sudan would never accept distortion of Sudan's history as practiced by the previous and successive regimes in Khartoum.

Darfur rebels group killed 4 merchants in Darfur

(Sudan Media Centre) Three merchants and nomads were killed in Darfur in two separate incidents by rebels group. Reliable sources told (SMC) that the attackers fired at a car with a number of merchants on board traveling between Fashir and Um Kadada. As consequence according to sources 2 passengers killed and three injured then later rescued to Fashir hospital for treatment.

Another rebels group also attacked nomads at Abu Hamra area while on their way to northern Darfur from south Darfur state. Attackers looted 300 head of cattle and beaten a merchant to death.

Amnesty says Sudan preparing new courts over rebels attack

(Sudan Tribune) — A human rights group accused Sudan of detaining hundreds of Darfuri without charges saying authorities prepare try them in what it termed "sham courts" that Khartoum set after a rebel attack on Khartoum where more than 220 people killed last May.

Sudan formed three "Anti-Terrorism Special Courts" to try alleged rebels charged of waging war against the state and the illicit use of weapons after an attack by the Justice and Equality Movement on May 10. Some 38 defendants were sentenced to death by the courts.

Amnesty International Monday said that the Sudanese government holds hundreds of people – including women and a nine-month-old – without charge or access to lawyers. Further the rights organization said that Khartoum prepare to try another 109 defendants in the special courts.

"Many are still unaccounted for and Amnesty International has received reports of torture and ill-treatment from people who were released and fears those still detained are at high risk of torture or that they have been disappeared." Amnesty said.

Amnesty urged the Sudanese authorities to "investigate crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice" but to observe the binding legal guarantees in criminal proceedings as it is provided in the Sudanese constitution.

UN envoy in Sudan, lawyers and activists denounced the lack of fair trial guarantees and urged the Appeal court to review the death sentences.

Tawanda Hondora, Africa Deputy Director at Amnesty International, said some defendants met their lawyer for the first time during the trial while they were tortured and forced to confess to crimes.

"Those trials were clearly unfair and now Sudan is preparing to try yet more people with this system. How is that justice?" said Hondora.

Amnesty International also urged the Sudanese authorities to reveal the whereabouts of all individuals held in the context of the 10 May investigation and urges that all are promptly charged or else released immediately.



