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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Local News Headlines

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English language press

### *Monday first day of Ramadan*

**Local dailies** of today reported that Sudan's top Islamic Council announced yesterday that Monday September 1st would be the first day of Ramadan. It congratulates Muslims on the advent of the holy months and wished them unity.

### *Abyei chief administrator and deputy to be sworn in next week*

**Al-Ayyam** carried a report stating that Member of Abyei Committee and State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun said Abyei chief administrator and his deputy would take oath of office before President Bashir next week prior to formation of the executive and legislative councils.

Haroun said there were no differences between NCP and SPLM with regard to Abyei administration's members.

### *Bar Association attacks Foreign Ministry, British Embassy and Ashraf Qazi*

**Al-Khartoum** of Aug. 30 quoted UNMIS as saying that it was seriously handling the incident involving a British Embassy vehicle which took place within its compounds. UNMIS spokesperson Khaled Mansour said preliminary investigations at the Mission level have been completed and they were intended to determine the responsibility because the accident took place within UNMIS compound.

He said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in the know about the incident and appropriate measures were taken between the Ministry, British Embassy and UNMIS.

The Sudanese Bar Association lashed out against the British Embassy, UNMIS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for lack of concern for incident. "The negative attitude on the part of Ashraf Qazi, the Ministry and British Embassy is evidence that the Sudanese people are being despised," says statement by the Bar Association. The chairman of the Bar Association said that based on the statements of the witnesses and victims the incident is "attempt to murder".

### *Ashraf Qazi gives in to pressures, abandons attempt to cover up the incident*

**Al-Wifaq** said informed sources within UNMIS revealed that the national staff members were displeased by Ashraf Qazi's stance on the incident of two colleagues hit by British Embassy vehicle.

SRSG made a series of attempts to settle the issue within UNMIS compounds to block legal action against the two British nationals but this was not forthcoming due to the strong position of NSA and solidarity with their colleagues.

### *Foreign Office denies request to strip two British Diplomats of their immunity*

**Al-Sahafa** reported that the Director of the Directorate of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Yousuf denied that the Ministry received official request to lift diplomatic immunity from two British Embassy staff members because of assaulting two UNMIS national employees.

"Many accidents involving foreign diplomats take place and they are amicably settled but this

incident is offensive and unprovoked, it runs counter to diplomatic norms,” the Director said.

### ***The incident is not officially reported – Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

**Sudan Vision** carried a report stating that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put three options to deal with the incident involving the British Embassy where two Sudanese guards were injured at UN premises in Khartoum.

The Director of Protocol at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Yousif stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would not resort to those options unless the incident was officially reported to it by UN special envoy for Sudan Ashraf Qazi or officially reported by police authorities adding that such an action has not been taken yet. The Ambassador said that upon reporting the incident, the Ministry will take one of three options: to expel the individuals involved, ask their government to withdraw their diplomatic immunity to be tried in their countries, or the victims will be compensated by the governments of those involved.

The Ambassador described the incident as regretful. However, it has not been dealt with in an official manner yet, because it took place in a diplomatic place where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not authorized to enter, unless granted permission from concerned authorities.

The lawyers union, represented by its president Fathi Khalil, criticized the British Embassy, Ashraf Gadi and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, saying that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not given any statement on the incident.

Lawyers Union pledged to follow up the procedures of the report put by Sudanese workers who were hit by the car of the British Embassy. The union considered the incident as intent for killing, explaining that the driver of the embassy has had a precedent with the Sudanese guard who tried to prevent him from access. He added that the driver parked the car in a wrong place and refused to park in the appropriate place.

### ***UNHRC split on Sima Samar’s mandate***

**Al-Sahafa** reported that UNHRC members split on Sima Samar’s mandate. One group is in favour of maintaining Samar because human rights situation in Sudan has not improved besides there were agreements signed between the Council and Sudan Government that entail presence of a rapporteur. Whereas the other group is of the view that continuity of Samar would not add anything to the human rights situation in Sudan adding that human rights situation in Sudan has improved.

### ***AUPSC requests Sudan Government’s report on crisis with ICC***

**Al-Ayyam** stated that the AU Peace and Security Council will hold an important meeting on the sidelines of UNGA in NY on 18 September to review latest ICC-related development and progress of the peace process in Darfur and implementation of CPA.

In a statement the AUPSC said Sudan would be availed an opportunity to explain its official stance on ICC allegations against Bashir.

### ***Sudanese are needed to work for peace in Darfur – Bassole***

**Al-Intibaha** reported that the UN-AU mediator Djibril Bassole said he would seriously work for resolving Darfur problem by involving all parties in the process. Bassole met yesterday with the Acting governor of South Darfur and members of his government. Bassole said his mission was to pave the way for the success of the peace process and urged all the political parties, the signatory and non-signatory factions to take part in the peace process and to assist realization of ceasefire in the region. He said Sudanese are the “first concerned with peace” and urged the

government of south Darfur to assist him to carry out his mission.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *UNSG rules out quick amelioration in Darfur security*

**(Sudan Tribune)** – UNSG Ban Ki-Moon painted a gloomy picture ruling out any quick improvement of the security situation in Darfur, adding that the deployment of peace forces would take more time.

In a report circulated on Friday, the Secretary General said the deployment of a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur will take many more months because of growing insecurity and logistical difficulties.

He further added that the only way to end the growing insecurity will be through political talks and a peace agreement.

"If we are to see real progress, decisive political action, which encompasses the whole of Sudan, is needed," Ban said in a report to the U.N. Security Council for the month of July.

The secretary-general did not say whether the 80 percent deployment target would be met, but he raised several new obstacles.

Preparations for the deployment of additional troops and police "continue to be hampered by significant logistical challenges and insecurity," Ban said.

Engineering and construction work in camps for the peacekeeper "have not advanced as anticipated," he added.

Increasing banditry in July also "substantially hindered UNAMID and humanitarian operations" as did aerial attacks and tribal clashes that erupted over disputed land rights in southern Darfur, he said.

"In spite of our efforts, deployment will take many more months during which UNAMID will continue to experience serious shortfalls in communications, logistics, medical evacuation and treatment, and air support," Ban said.

"This means that UNAMID ... will continue to be extremely vulnerable in the months ahead," he said.

Ban said the July 8 attack underlined the force's critical need for aircraft, and he appealed again for donor countries to supply 18 medium-lift helicopters, 6 attack helicopters, reconnaissance planes and trucks.

Ki-Moon, also seemed unsettled over the issues of justice and peace in Darfur. Ban said it was important to seek justice for any crimes committed in Sudan but made it clear that justice was not the only top priority.

"The international community also has the responsibility to seek agreement on the equal importance of peace and justice in trying to meet the needs of the people in Darfur," Ban said in the report.

However the Secretary General did not criticize Moreno-Ocampo's request for an arrest warrant against president Omer Al-Bashir. Instead he emphasized that the ICC "is an independent

institution and the United Nations respects the independence of the judicial process."

But he said the prosecutor's request had "altered the political landscape, although it is too early to assess the impact it will have on the peace process."

The success of the new AU-U.N. chief mediator, Djibrill Yipene Bassole, "will hinge on the will of the parties to resolve their differences through dialogue" as well as international support for his efforts.

The U.N. and AU have tried for months to open new peace talks between Sudan and rebel groups following the failure of a 2005 agreement to stem the violence that erupted in early 2003. But most rebel chiefs are boycotting the negotiations.

### ***China against "irresponsible" ICC move to arrest Sudan's Bashir***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – China is opposed to any "irresponsible" move that can hinder the realization of peace in Darfur, the visiting Chinese envoy said today about a request by ICC Prosecutor for an arrest warrant against president Omer Al-Bashir.

Liu Guijin told reporters on Saturday that the move of the International Criminal Court prosecutor could affect negatively the ongoing efforts to achieve peace in western Sudan troubled region of Darfur.

"We must face this act until there is a fair and speedy settlement of the problem" he added. Indicating China is against any move that could irresponsible adversely affect efforts to bring peace in Darfur.

The Chinese envoy made these statements after a meeting with the Presidential Adviser, Mustafa Osman Ismail in Khartoum today.

Ismail said that they agreed to coordinate efforts between Sudan, China, the African Union and all other friendly countries that are keen on security and stability in Darfur at the U.N. Security Council.

Liu Guijin will meet at the end of his visit with Sudanese president to express the support of Chinese to the Sudanese president.

The Chinese also met with the undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday evening, Mutrif Sidiq who rejected any transfer of the mandate of the Sudanese judiciary to international justice, stating that Sudan was capable of trying anybody responsible for committing crimes in Darfur.

### ***FM Alor to take part in Asmara meeting on Sudan-Chad ties***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Foreign Minister Deng Alor will lead the Sudanese delegation participating in the ministerial meeting of the Contact Group on the implementation of the Dakar peace Agreement between Sudan and Chad.

The meeting will be held in Eritrean capital Asmara on 12 September, while a preparatory meeting of experts will take place on 11 September.

Eritrea which is part of the contact group charged with the implementation of Dakar Agreement between Sudan and Chad, had to host this meeting on August 26 to discuss mechanisms related to the deployment of the joint patrols throughout border between the two countries.

However the meeting had been delayed due to the calendar of the foreign ministers of the contact group.

The Ministerial Meeting will discuss the convening of a summit of heads of states to normalize relations between Sudanese and Chadian. The two neighbouring countries agreed to restore bilateral relations on August 1 following a Libyan mediation.

Also it would discuss the deployment of joint units to monitor the border between the two countries in order to prevent rebel infiltration from both sides.

Relations between Sudan and Chad are very volatile since 2004 when Khartoum started to suspect N'Djamena of backing Darfur rebels. Eversince, the two countries accuse each other of supporting internal armed opposition.

The members of the contact group are: Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Eritrea, Libya and Senegal.

### ***Upper Nile Governor wraps up visit to China***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — The Governor of Upper Nile State, Gatluak Deng Garang, has concluded a seven-day official visit to China where he met several government officials and major players in the Chinese private sector. Garang's trip to China begun on August 23 and ended today.

The Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Zhai Jun, affirmed his government support to the people of Southern Sudan, especially, people of Upper Nile State.

China is committed to supporting the development of Sudan and would like to see a peaceful and prosperous nation after years of civil war that has lost many chances for development, he said.

Governor Garang also met with the General Manager of the Chinese National Petroleum Company (CNPC) who has assured his company's sincere cooperation with the State Authorities.

The Petrodar Oil Company will build the Close Sport Complex in the Andrew Both Deng's Basket Ball Memorial Ground in AIMuderia, and a Friendship Conference Hall in the State Capital Malakal, said the General Manager.

He reviewed the building of low-cost houses the Marketing Department of the BNBM Construction Company. The Company has initially accepted to build these kinds of homes in Upper Nile State as requested by the Governor with only a marginal profit compare to their projects, as their effort to help the development programs in Southern Sudan.

The Company will have to come to the State and negotiate a contract with the State's Government so that building of these homes can start immediately, said the Governor.

The Governor held talks with Chinese Wisdom Company who will be in charge of revitalizing irrigation and mechanized agricultural schemes in northern and eastern Upper Nile (Renk and Malou areas).

Garang had pledged before the state parliament to implement concrete measures to increase domestic food production and addressing the challenge of high food price.

The Wisdom Company has agreed with the Governor to immediately draw a plan of action and

have instructed their representative in Khartoum to visit the areas immediately so that the agricultural projects functions with the next season.

### ***EU to invest \$350 millions in Jonglei infrastructures***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – A team of European Union on Thursday says at least 350 millions US dollars would be invested by Holland, Turkey and Belgium governments for infrastructural development in Jonglei state.

The delegates, Hamed Salah Hamed and Rob in't Zand add, said at a press briefing in Bor airstrip Thursday that the construction would be implemented by the European firm MZ Equipment.

The infrastructures to be targeted include roads, airstrip, hotels and residential. The EU delegate stressed that the state government will take a paramount role in the development.

According to the deal, the company will build houses and hotels and payment would be made in installments.

Deputy Governor Hussien Mar Nyout, State Ministers of Physical Infrastructure Eng. John Amuor Kuol, Health Dr. Agot Alier Leek and others senior staffs, in a meeting with the EU diplomats, pledged state government's support for speedy implementation of the constructions.

The State chiefs took the EU staffs around the town for a brief tour before proceeding to Juba from Khartoum.