

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 04 December 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN chief urges help to arrest Sudanese suspects in Darfur crimes

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 3 Dec. UNITED NATIONS) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged all countries on Monday "to do everything in their power" to help arrest two Sudanese accused of crimes against humanity in conflict-wracked Darfur.

The International Criminal Court, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, has issued warrants for the arrest of the seven men. But the Sudanese government has said repeatedly it will never hand over any of its citizens.

In an address to the court's annual two-week meeting, Ban recalled the launch of the tribunal in July 2002 and noted "with some satisfaction" that two individuals indicted by the court — rival Congolese militia leaders — have been arrested and transferred to The Hague, Netherlands for trial.

"I urge all member states to do everything within their powers to assist in enforcing these warrants," he said, stressing that "the single most important determinant of success for any international tribunals is cooperation."

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25021>

UN may need to mull new Sudan sanctions over Darfur force - US

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 3 Dec. NEW YORK) The U.N. Security Council may need to meet "within weeks" to consider new sanctions on Sudan unless Khartoum quickly accepts a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, a top U.S. diplomat said on Monday.

The council decided unanimously in July to send peacekeepers to stem the violence in Darfur where some 200,000 people have died in 4-1/2 years. Now Sudan was throwing up obstacles and failing to meet its commitments, said Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

"The Security Council's credibility is on the line," he told a conference on Darfur at New York's Columbia University. "If there's no cooperation, the Security Council will need to reconvene to discuss the issue of what to do to bring about compliance."

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25023>

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudanese presidency says to settle Abyei by itself

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 3 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudanese presidency has decided to settle by itself the row over the oil rich region of Abyei while the other pending issues in the implementation of the 2005 peace agreement are referred to other committees.

In a meeting held on Monday evening, president Omer Hassan al-Bashir and his first deputy, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, agreed that the presidency shall take charge of the solution of Abyei issue.

Further they instructed the Joint Defence Committee to set a timetable during the two coming days for the withdrawal of respective forces from Upper Nile state and northern states, Blue Nile and in South Kordofan States. The meeting was attended also by the vice-president Ali Osman Mohamed Taha,

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25033>

SPLM appeals for a national HIV/AIDS awareness campaign

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 3 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Northern Sector yesterday appealed for a national awareness campaign for HIV/AIDS, which has claimed the lives of over 23,000 Sudanese.

A press release issued by the SPLM underlined the need to launch a strong HIV/AIDS national campaign that should involve all political and civil societies' leaders, in such a way that political and civic discourse is directed, in the first place, to the benefit of the people and the society and to give priority to humanity over politics.

The SPLM said that the HIV /AIDS disease constitutes a formidable threat to all parts of the country, from the South to the North and from the East to the West.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25028>

Before leaving for Addis: Pagan provides Akhbar Alyaum with important information on tomorrow's meeting on CPA partners' crisis with Rice participation

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) The US Charge d'Affaires to Khartoum confirmed that the two CPA partners will attend tomorrow in Addis Ababa meeting as a result of an American initiative aiming at overcoming the crisis between the two partners. He said in a statement to AlSudani that the US Administration welcomes the efforts of the two parties in this meeting which will be attended by the Secretary of State Rice and the IGAD Foreign Ministers.

The Charge confirmed also that the two parties have received invitations for this meeting. He said his Embassy has sent written invitations last week.

The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said a SPLM delegation will participate tomorrow in the Addis Ababa meeting in which the US Secretary of State Rice will be present. Pagan said the US Administration may make new proposals on Abyei.

Joint Defence Board to meet within two days

(AlSudani) The Presidency (al Bashir, Kiir and Taha) meeting yesterday ordered the Joint Defence Board to meet within two days to prepare a timetable for the redeployment of troops from Upper Nile and the Northern States.

MPS request investigation in clashes between SAF and Miseriya in AlKhadar area in Meram Locality, South Kordofan

(AlAyam) A number of MPs are in the process of summoning the Minister of Defence to provide information on the recently reported clashes between a group of Miseriya and SAF in al Khadar area south-western al Mujlad. They called for an immediately credible investigation on the incident.

Vraalsen: AEC should be transparent

(Khartoum Monitor) At the press conference yesterday held in Amarat, the Chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), Ambassador Tom Vraalsen told journalists that he is scheduled to depart from Khartoum next week. He stated that he wants to meet the press to talk about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the AEC before his departure.

He said that through hard work over 12 months, the commission has produced factual reports on the status of the CPA implementation 2007. He said that the commission should open up for public. It should be transparent in its operation. Documents produced by the commission and its staff should as a general rule be made accessible to the public, he explained.

Vraalsen Denies Forced Resignation Allegations

(Sudan Vision) Vraalsen CPA Assessment and Evaluation Commission chairman, Tom Vraalsen, in a press statement yesterday denied that he was forced to resign as a result of pressure by the National Congress Party.

Vraalsen said much has been achieved in CPA implementation as evidenced by the Commission's factual report for 2007. However, he stated that there are CPA provisions of great political importance which are still seriously behind schedule. He stressed on unlocking the door to reach a solution to the existing problem.

Regarding the future of the Commission, Vraalsen said it has the potential to develop into a proactive mechanism capable of facilitating and promoting CPA implementation. To achieve that, he added, the working methods of the Commission should undergo fundamental change.

Sudan (SPLM) Ambassador to US: Three wings within SPLM, some do not trust Salva

(*AlAyam*) The Sudan (SPLM) Charge d'Affaires to Washington, John Akweij, said there are three wings within SPLM. There is, he explained, Garang's group, Machar's group and Lam Akol's group. He criticized appointing a number of northerners in constitutional portfolios. He said SPLM is for all Sudan but the constitutional portfolios according to the CPA are for South Sudan only. Deng Alor is from Abyei in Kordofan, Mansour Khalid and Yasir Arman are from the north, he said.

British Teacher Pardoned under Article 208

(*Sudan Vision*) An authorized legal source has told the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) that the pardon granted by the President of the Republic to the British teacher, Gillian Gibbons, provided for dropping the remaining part of the jail sentence in accordance with Article 208 of the Criminal Proceedings Law.

The source added that this is different from the pardon stipulated under Article 211 of the same law.

The Presidential pardon was granted after two British peers, Lord Ahmed and Baorness Syeeda Warsi, launched a private initiative to secure Gibbon's release. The peers delayed their departure after President Al Bashir confirmed a last-minute meeting following a two-day wait.

Demonstrators oppose pardoning of British teacher

(*Khartoum Monitor*) Between 30 to 40 people assembled out side the residence of the British Ambassador chanting slogans against the pardon of British teacher Ms. Gillian Gibbons yesterday afternoon.

Britain hails teacher's 'common sense' pardon in Sudan

(*Agence France-Presse* — 3 Dec. LONDON) Britain welcomed Monday the pardoning of a teacher jailed in Sudan for naming a teddy bear Mohammed as a victory for common sense, describing the episode as an "innocent misunderstanding".

"I was delighted and relieved to hear the news that Gillian Gibbons is to be freed," "Common sense has prevailed," Prime Minister Gordon Brown said soon after the announcement of the 54-year-old teacher's imminent release.

He said she was to be handed over to the British embassy in Khartoum "after what must have been a difficult ordeal".

Leaders from the Miseriya and Dinka Ngok Tribes call for Non-governmental Conference to overcome Abyei Crisis

(*Alwan*) Leaders from the Miseriya and Dinka Ngok tribes asked for organizing a conference for the two tribes, with the participation of the political forces, to resolve the Abyei area issue so as to defuse tensions. The tribal leaders denounced

international intervention in this issue as it is a matter that concerns the people of the area. The leaders rejected the ABC report.

The chief of Koj (Dinka Ngok) and member of South Kordofan Legislative Assembly, Zakaria Atim, said Abyei is part of Kordofan explaining that this is a historical fact which should not be ignored. Any one who says we are part of the South is a liar. We have never been part of the South. True, we are Dinka but Dinka of Kordofan, he said. Atim called on the Miseriya and Dinka to sit down and solve the problem without intervention by outsiders.

On his part, the Omda of the Miseriya, Al Shamo Hamadain, said they have been living with Ngok in Abyei and have not authorized any person to speak on our behalf. He said the Abyei issue can be solved by the two tribes who are able to determine their future.

GoSS

SPLM leader sacks two senior officials

(*Sudan Tribune.com, Sudan Vision* – 3 Dec. KHARTOUM) Sudanese First Vice President and Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Salva Kiir Mayadrit, issued a decree removing two SPLM officials from their positions as well as from the membership of the Movement.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said that Kiir suspended Telar Deng former state minister at the presidency and newly appointed minister of state at the Ministry of Justice and Aleu Ayieny Aleu former state minister for the Interior from SPLM membership permanently.

SUNA said the decision was taken in light of investigations made into a plot by Deng and Aleu to overthrow Kiir from SPLM leadership.

Sudanese troops deployed in Jonglei to stop tribal fighting

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 3 Dec. KHARTOUM) Following deadly tribal clashes between the Murles and Dinka Bor tribes last week joint Sudanese army troops were deployed in Jonglei State to restore security and control the situation, a UN report said.

The tribal fighting started on 27 November following an attack by Murle tribesmen on Dinka Bor tribe near Padak, 200 km southeast of Malakal, the UN mission in Sudan stated.

According to the UNMIS, eight Dinka Bor were killed and up to 7,000 heads of cattle stolen by the Murle during their 27 November attack.

November violence followed tribal conflict in July in which cattle raids and revenge attacks in Jonglei state killed 56.

MSF said it had been treating 23 people brought in overnight with injuries sustained in clashes between tribes.

Other casualties include a national staff member from MSF. Some UN staff members reported that their homes were broken into and looted. The MSF compound, vehicles and equipment were damaged. *Read more* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25027>

74 killed in clashes between Dinka and Murle

(*AlRai AlAam*) The GoSS declared a curfew and ordered deployment of the JIUs and SPLA troops in Bor town following the killing of 27 people and injuring 47 others (20 from Dinka) in an ambush launched by the Murle tribe last week. An UNMIS report released yesterday says that the Dinka tried to retrieve their 700 heads of cattle which were taken by the Murle tribe. In retaliation the Dinka men attacked Bor town and killed four patients who were receiving medical treatment.

Darfur

Delay in Darfur force harming peace process

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 3 Dec. BRUSSELS) Delays in deploying a joint U.N.-African Union force in Darfur are undermining efforts to negotiate a peace agreement for the Sudanese region, the UN's mediator Jan Eliasson said.

Eliasson was speaking to Reuters before a tour of the region to sound out governments and rebels on when talks could resume.

"As political negotiators we also need progress on the peacekeeping side," said Eliasson, the former Swedish foreign minister, adding that the struggling AU mission of almost 7,000 personnel was not enough to monitor a cessation of hostilities.

"We want to have a minimum presence on the ground to improve the situation ... and also to monitor the cessation of hostilities agreement which we hope will come about at the beginning of the substantive talks," he said in an interview.

"If we don't have enough troops on the ground we cannot monitor, we cannot verify possible breaches of that agreement, so we are disturbed by the delay," he said.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25024>

Darfur rebel group says world must not turn its back on the ICC

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 3 Dec. LONDON) The Darfur rebel group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) called on the international community to stand behind the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the work it is doing in Darfur.

"There will be no lasting peace in Darfur without enforcing justice" JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam told Sudan Tribune by phone from London.

Adam said that the justice component is not subject to compromise or negotiation with the Sudanese government.

The prosecutor of the ICC, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, will submit his semi-annual report on Wednesday to the UN Security Council (UNSC). Ocampo is expected to notify the council that Sudan is not cooperating per resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region in early May.

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects. **Read more** <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25032>

Third Chad rebel group clashes with army near Sudan

(Sudan Tribune.com — 3 Dec. N'DJAMENA) A third Chadian rebel group clashed with government forces near the eastern border with Sudan on Monday after abandoning a month-old ceasefire just over a week ago, rebel and army sources said.

Fighters from the Assembly of Forces for Change (RFC) clashed with government soldiers near Aram Kole, northeast of the town of Biltine, in fighting which lasted around two hours. Casualty figures were not immediately available.

"The Chadian National Army (ANT) has attacked us. We're in the middle of a battle," RFC leader Timane Irdimi told Reuters by satellite phone. An RFC spokesman later said the fighting had died down.

Read more <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article25029>

Sharm Elsheikh Conference on Darfur Commences Today

(Sudan Vision, SMC) UN-AU Brokerage stated that the two Special Envoys to Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Alison will participate in the meeting of the regional peace partners on Darfur, namely, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and Libya convening today Tuesday in Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt.

The acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Ahmed Karti, is due to head Sudan delegation for participation at the two-day meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Africa and the European Union. Around 80 African and European countries would take part in the meeting, which comes in the framework of the preparation for the Second Summit of the Africa - European Union, scheduled during December 8 - 9 in Lisbon.

In a press statement to SUNA, the Director of the African Union Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Al-Tayeb Ali Ahmed, said that the meeting of the African and European Foreign Ministers will discuss issues of development, trade, good governance, human rights, immigration, climate change, security and peace.

Read more <http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=28979>

Writers press EU-Africa summit to broach Zimbabwe, Darfur

(*Agence France-Presse* — 4 Dec. LONDON) Leading European and African writers accused the two continents' leaders of "political cowardice" Tuesday for failing to put Zimbabwe and Darfur at the top of the agenda of a summit this week.

Authors, including Vaclav Havel, Guenter Grass, Ben Okri and John M. Coetzee, said leaders at the European Union-African Union summit in Lisbon, Portugal, this weekend were shying away from "two of the world's worst humanitarian crises."

"What can we say of this political cowardice? We expect our leaders to lead, and lead with moral courage," they said in an open letter to be published Tuesday in newspapers across Europe and Africa.

"When they fail to do so they leave all of us morally impoverished."

Copies have also been sent to every leader attending the summit, which is the first to be held since 2000, said non-governmental organization Crisis Action, which publicized the letter in advance.

The writers argue that it is impossible to usher in a new era of co-operation between the two continents when strife in the western Sudanese region and repression in Zimbabwe are ignored.

New movement calls for pull-out of Chinese peacekeepers from hybrid force

(*BBC Mon, Sudan Radio Service*) The new United Sudan Liberation Movement or USLM is urging the commander of the United Nations and African Union joint peacekeeping mission to Darfur to pull Chinese peacekeepers from the region.

In an interview with Sudan Radio Service in Juba on Wednesday, USLM spokesman Issam Al-Haj said that Chinese troops will "never be accepted in Darfur."

He alleges that China has never played any positive role in ending the Darfur conflict and has actually provided weapons to the Sudan Armed Forces and the Janjaweed militias, which are accused of killing civilians in the region.

Al-Haj went on to say that the presence of Chinese troops in Darfur is to protect China's oil interests in Sudan.

More than 100 Chinese engineers are in Darfur to help in building camps, roads, bridges and digging wells to prepare for the planned deployment of a larger AU and UN joint peacekeeping mission to the region.

Sudanese official denies UN humanitarian chief's claims on Darfur

(*BBC Mon, Sudanese TV*) [News reader] During his visit to Al-Fashir town [Northern Darfur], the assistant UN secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, John Holmes, held talks with North Darfur Governor Muhammad Yusuf Kibir. The talks focused on humanitarian issues.

[Reporter] North Darfur Governor Othman Muhammad Yusuf Kibir refuted the allegations raised by the assistant UN secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, John Holmes, on the humanitarian and security conditions in Darfur states. During a meeting with the international official, Kibir affirmed that the humanitarian and security conditions in Darfur were witnessing more stability and security than ever before, indicating that voluntary return of the displaced was going on.

[Kibir speaking at his meeting with Holmes] We have statistics and definite indicators affirming that the conditions in Darfur are very good and improving and even very advanced. The reality on the ground refutes any talk about the deterioration of humanitarian situation in Darfur or North Darfur. This talk thus turns into a political one.

[Reporter] North Darfur governor affirmed that the security conditions in Darfur were much better than in some Western countries. He stressed that the international community failed to abide by its pledges towards peace in Darfur. He defied the organizations operating in his state to prove that any official body had blocked their humanitarian activity.