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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

UN/Agencies

UN Secretary General appoints new DPKO chief

(Al-Sudani) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has announced the appointment of Mr. Alain Le Roy of France as Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Operations to replace Jean-Marie Guehenno. The Secretary General has commended the performance of the outgoing DPKO chief.

Al-Bashir affirms Sudan's cooperation with UN and AU to boost Darfur peace process

(SUNA) President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir has affirmed Sudan commitment to cooperation to enable the UN and AU to perform their tasks towards boosting the peace process in Darfur. The President reviewed, in a meeting held with the Deputy of the UN Secretary General Ayesha Rose, on the sidelines of the African Summit in Sharm Al-Sheikh Wednesday, the developments of the situation in Darfur and the Sudanese - Chadian relations, besides Sudan cooperation with UN.

Meanwhile The UN official lauded Sudan government cooperation with the international organization concerning Darfur issue.

On the other hand, a joint technical meeting between Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, which was held on the sidelines of the 11th African Union Summit in Sharm Al-Shaikh, Egypt, has agreed on formation a tripartite mechanism to meet regularly in Addis Ababa to solve issues relating to UNAMID. In a press statement to SUNA, the Director of the Peace Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Al-Tayeb Ali Ahmed, said that the meeting tackled issues on deployment of the hybrid operation, implementation of development projects and rehabilitation of the airports in Darfur.

US supports extension for controversial Rwandan UN commander in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) The US voiced support to a decision by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to renew contract of a Rwandan general

working in Darfur accused of war crimes.

General Kerenzi Karake was named last year as the second-in-command for a joint United Nations-African Union force in Darfur despite allegations of power abuse in his homeland involving detained extremists of the country's Hutu ethnic group.

A Brussels-based Rwandan exile group has accused General Kerenzi Karake of supervising extra-judicial killings of civilians before and after Tutsi-led rebels took power in Rwanda following the country's 1994 genocide

The Rwandan government denied the charge. While the United Nations has asked international human rights groups to submit any information they have on Karake, 46, to discover whether there is any basis to the allegations.

Last February a Spanish magistrate issued an indictment against Karake and 40 other Rwandan officials for reprisal killings against Hutus in the years after the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized power, the Washington Post reported.

Karake's contract in Darfur mission was due to expire soon and the UN Secretariat appeared hesitant to renew it.

Rwanda's U.N. ambassador, Joseph Nsengimana, told the Washington Post that the world body has already offered to renew the contract of the top commander of the U.N. mission in Darfur, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai of Nigeria, but has not done the same for Kerenzi.

"We have nominated General Kerenzi because he is professionally qualified and the U.N. has recognized he is a very good official...as the force commander's contract was automatically renewed, we requested to know why Kerenzi's was not".

The US, largest contributor to the UN-AU force, urged the UN chief to keep the Rwandan general despite division in Washington on whether this is the right thing to do.

In a meeting last week, Jendayi Frazer, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Africa, urged U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the world body's top peacekeeping official, Jean-Marie Guehenno, to renew Kerenzi's contract, according to American and U.N. officials.

Frazer argued that the United Nations cannot afford to alienate the Rwandans when they are needed in Darfur and may play a role in a future U.N. mission in Somalia. She signaled that Kerenzi "has to stay" a U.N. official said.

But others in the administration believe Kerenzi should go. "There are many in the U.S. government who think we should dump the guy," said one American official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. "But Assistant Secretary Jendayi Frazer has the final call."

"The message was listen to the Rwandans" the official told the US daily.

Washington likely made the decision in light of slow international response to aiding the Darfur force with logistics and troops. Rwandan troops are one of the largest contingents in the war ravaged region.

The US has grown increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of deploying peacekeepers to Darfur and recently appeared to throw the blame on the UN for the delay.

The United Nations has for months been seeking six attack and 18 transport helicopters to support the force. However, Williamson told UN chief last March that the UN should not be hung on the issue of helicopters needed by the Darfur force.

Sima Samar meets with the defense of JEM accused

(Al-Ayyam) A delegation from the defense of JEM elements accused of involvement in attack on Omdurman met with the UN Human Rights Rapporteur Sima Samar, briefed her on rules and proceedings of anti-terror courts as well as the situation of human rights of the accused.

They told the rapporteur that the court proceedings violate the Criminal Procedures Act and the Evidence Act. Samar was also briefed on situation of human rights of the accused and why the defense walked out of court sittings.

United Nations Food Agency Extends Sudan Humanitarian Flights

(Bloomberg) The United Nations food agency said it would extend humanitarian flights in Sudan for three months after receiving funding from donors.

Last month, the World Food Programme said it would stop its air service in the North African

country if it didn't receive donations to fund its flights. The agency has subsequently received \$14 million, Peter Smerdon, regional spokesman for the agency, said in a telephone interview yesterday from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

"The organization has received enough funding to continue providing flights through the end of September this year," Smerdon said.

The WFP provides regular air transport to more than 200 non-governmental and humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan. On June 27, a Ugandan driver for the agency was killed by unknown assailants, bringing to five the number of drivers contracted by the program who have been murdered this year.

"WFP will now fly aid workers to southern Sudan and Darfur because banditry and insecurity on the ground have made movement on some roads impossible," Smerdon said.

GoNU

Presidency meeting to announce Abyei Administration postponed, SPLM calls for SAF withdrawal from Abyei

(Al-Sahafa/Al-Ayyam) SPLA in Abyei has called on SAF to withdraw 50 km north of Abyei. SPLA spokesperson Peter Paryiang said SAF brigade 31 was still in the town and SPLA forces were also still stationed near the town. JIUs were deployed but police was yet to do so, said SPLA deputy chief (operations) Salva Matok. "Our partners said they will not withdraw unless police personnels are in place," he added.

A press release issued by the SPLM politbureau urged JDB to ensure deployment of JIUs and withdrawal of SAF brigade 31. The statement also called on the Ministry of Interior to withdraw the police and reconsider the manner in which they were deployed.

GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong told Al-Sahafa newspaper that the Presidency meeting scheduled to announce Abyei administration was postponed until the end of this week.

SAF, police and NISS to carry out experimental security project during 2-3 July

(Akhbar Al Yom) Director of Khartoum State Police Lt. Gen. Mohamed Osman Mohamed Nour

announced that the National Intelligence and Security Services, police and SAF will carry out experimental security plan involving movement of some forces from various areas from Omdurman, Kararri and Umbada Localities on Wednesday July 2nd and Thursday July 7th. The police HQs wishes to inform civilians that troops movement are normal.

Sudanese parliament passes general features of the electoral law

(Sudan Tribune) The National Assembly passed in today's session the draft law on general elections at the stage of general features after a recommendation by the Committee on Legislation and Justice.

The most important features of the bill that it establishes a mixed electoral system (majority election system and proportional representation), secure the participation of women by 25% and the opportunity for the expatriates to participate in presidential elections and national referendum.

In accordance with an agreement reached by the two partners in the national unity government, the bill draft identifies 60% for the geographical constituencies, reserves 25% for the women and gives 15% for the proportional representation open for men and women.

The current draft is considered as compromise on the precedent positions of the two partners. The SPLM wanted a 50% for the proportional representation and 50% for the majority election system. The NCP worked for a 60% for the majority system and 40% for the proportional.

The SPLM obtained a 25% for women and the NCP 60% for geographical constituencies.

With regard to opposition parties, the Umma of Sadiq al-Mahdi had agreed in a political agreement signed with the NCP on the principle of 60% - 40%.

President Bashir refuses to meet with his Chadian counterpart in Sharm El-Sheik

(Al-Sahafa) Efforts made by African leaders to arrange a meeting between President Bashir and Idriss Deby of Chad on the sidelines of AU summit in Sharm El Shaikh have failed as President Bashir has apologized, saying such meeting could take place later on.

SPLM in Southern Kordofan rejects census results

(Al-Intibaha) SPLM in Southern Kordofan State declared its categorical rejection to results of the national census saying the results would not be recognized. SPLA Secretary in the region Arno Lodi said at press conference yesterday that they had informed the Presidency about the need for repeat of census exercise in the area.

Pagan Amun: Sudan should be secular, not Islamist or Arab state

(Al-Intibaha) In a flagrant defiance to the will and identity of the nation, the SPLM Secretary General has denounced the establishment of an Arab and Islamic state in Sudan saying it should be secular.

Pagan Amun who was speaking at symposium at Shahid Al-Zubair Hall yesterday reiterated that Sudan is a "failed state".

US Charge d'Affaires: US wants to engage in direct dialogue with Sudanese Government

(Al-Ayyam) The US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez in press statements following meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Al Samani Al Waseela said the United States intends to enter into direct dialogue with Sudan Government. He said, "There is intent for direct dialogue but the question is whether the time is appropriate or not,". "There should be a right time," he added.

Mr. Al Samani said the meeting was requested by the US Charge d'Affaires and focused on a wide range of issues particularly the hybrid operation, what the International Community needs to be done and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Masked man breaks into bank in Khartoum, seizes 34 million pounds

(Al-Sahafa) Khartoum State Police arrested yesterday a masked man who broke into the Saving Bank's branch in Khartoum. The person exploded molotov bomb, seized 34,000 pounds and attempted to flee but was caught. The fire brigade succeeded in controlling the fire started by the cocktail explosion.

Lakes state to begin disarmament next week

(Sudan Tribune) Head of the SPLA Division 5th sector, Maj-General James Gidual Galuak, informed the crown chiefs in an awareness meeting for disarmament forum at ECS church on how guns should be handed over to state government authority next week.

Top state government officials including, Advisors, ministers, lawmakers, Rumbek central county commissioner and chiefs attended the meeting.

Gidual announced to the gathering that disarmament in Lakes state would start on Monday July 1, 2008 but as the governor Daniel Awet asked for, it is delayed to July 10, 2008.

South Sudan puts military on standby over Ugandan rebels

(AFP) Southern Sudan has ordered its military to attack anyone bearing arms outside Ugandan rebel assembly points in a bid to clampdown on anti-civilian attacks, Vice President Riek Machar said Tuesday.

Rebels from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) overran a military camp on the Sudan-Congo border on June 4, killing at least 27 people.

A Ugandan military squad raided a town on the Sudan-Uganda border, killing one person on June 14, according to a ceasefire monitoring team.

"The SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) is under instruction that anybody holding arms must be attacked," Machar told parliament in response to a call from MPs for the government to deploy more forces in the affected areas.

"The army has now deployed," he added.

The Ugandan military has forces at the border with Sudan, but it remains unclear if and how deeply they have penetrated the country.

Sudan-mediated talks between Uganda and the LRA halted in April when the elusive rebel leader

Joseph Kony refused to sign a peace accord, on the grounds of outstanding International Criminal Court war crimes arrest warrants.

South Sudan parliament condemns rebel LRA atrocities

(Sudan Tribune) The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) has passed a resolution condemning the atrocities committed by the Uganda rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Greater Equatoria region.

In its two-day deliberations chaired by the Speaker of the House, Honourable James Wani Igga, the Assembly also passed another resolution endorsing a report presented by the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chief Mediator of the Uganda peace talks, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, on the status of the Uganda peace process.

The Southern Sudan lawmakers expressed their support to the peaceful settlement of the LRA's war and urged the Government of Southern Sudan through the Chief Mediator to continue mediating the process and persuading the LRA leadership to sign the Final Peace Agreement (FPA).

Darfur

33 persons killed and wounded in fresh fighting between Tarjam and Bani Halba in South Darfur (Al-Sudani)

(Al-Sudani) Fighting renewed yesterday between Tarjam and Bani Halba in Dandoura area in South Darfur State where eleven persons killed and 22 others wounded.

The Governor of the State has threatened to use the emergency law as well as aircraft to deal with those seeking to take advantage of the killing of the nomads commissioner to aggravate the situation.

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