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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- Paris' policy hostile – Khartoum tells French delegation (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- No differences over referendum bill – FPV Kiir (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- NCP downplays SPLM national government hint (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Abyei referendum bill underway (**the Citizen**)
- Al-Bashir's criticism of political parties unwarranted – NDA (**Al-Sudani**)
- President Bashir to visit Egypt (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Sudan's Bashir says new plane defies sanctions (**Reuters**)
- Many electoral committees finalize constituency delimitation (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Ashraf Qazi visits Abyei (**al-Sahafa**)
- UN tells SPLM, NCP to respect The Hague ruling (**The Citizen**)
- USG for PKO to visit Sudan (**Miraya**)
- Opposition seeking to remove the government – NCP (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Khartoum to ask UNHCR about refugees resettlement (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Three SPLM members detained in northern Kordofan (**Al-Sahafa**)
- SPLA threatens to restart war (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Ministerial reshuffle in southern Kordofan government expected (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Darfur JEM severs contacts with AU Mbeki panel (**ST**)
- Ugandan rebels renew attacks in Sudan's Western Equatoria state (**ST**)
- UN chartered Antonov crashes in North Darfur (**ST**)
- Irish team arrive in Darfur to help free aid workers (**Reuters**)
- Press and Publication Council calls on newspapers to have "ethics" (**Miraya**)

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Highlights

Paris' policy hostile – Khartoum tells French delegation

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the Sudanese government has told the visiting French parliamentary delegation that relationship between Khartoum and Paris "is not as good as it should have been" and called on France to review its policies toward Sudan. Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie said Khartoum want relations based on mutual interests. However, Nafie described his discussion with the delegation as "fruitful", hoping for a greater role by France on the issue of SLM leader Abdul Wahid Al-Nur. The French delegation is also scheduled to visit Darfur and southern Sudan to assess the humanitarian situation.

No differences over referendum bill – Kiir

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports FVP Salva Kiir met with President Al-Bashir yesterday. Mr. Kiir told reporters that he came to consult with the President before proceeding today for a visit to the southern Kordofan State. He said he discussed with the President progress of the implementation of the CPA, referendum and the border demarcation. He denied differences over the referendum bill which has been submitted to the Presidency for endorsement. He said the meeting did not discuss the census results. Mr. Kiir said he would meet with the Energy Minister today for discuss on problems faced by oil companies in the south.

Meanwhile, **Khartoum Monitor** reports Mr. Kiir rejected the postponement of the 2011 Southern Sudan's referendum like the way elections are to be delayed. During payers at the home of Gier Chuang Aluong on Saturday 4th July 2009, Kiir said that the SPLM would not be in a position to accept the extension of the referendum date beyond 2011. He pointed out that it must be done in January and further expressed more concern to the way the NEC and the concerned authorities are extending election dates that were granted by the CPA, to take place in July 2009 but were postponed to February 2010.

NCP downplays SPLM national government hint

Al-Wifaq reports NCP information secretary Kamal Obeid yesterday downplayed the SPLM hint that it might consider the political parties' request for formation of a national government. "SPLM has the right to say what it wants to say but our stand is based on the constitution" he said.

Abyei referendum bill underway

The **Citizen** reports chairperson of the SSLA's Legal Affairs Committee Deng Arop as saying that the committee tasked with drafting the Abyei referendum bill has started its work.

Meanwhile, **Al-Akhbar** reports US envoy Scott Gration yesterday presented to the SPLM new proposals with regard to the border demarcation and the Abyei. SPLM Deputy Chairman Malik Aqqar told reporters yesterday that the proposal on Abyei stressed the need to strengthen measures on the ground ahead of the arbitration decision to avert violence in the area. With regard to the border demarcation, he said Gration proposed seeking the help of foreign experts to demarcate the border.

Al-Bashir's criticism of political parties unwarranted – NDA

Al-Sudani reports NDA spokesperson Hatim Al-Sir has criticized President Al-Bashir's speech marking the launch of Sudanese Safat Aviation Complex, saying the speech contained unjustifiable attack on the political parties. He said the speech was provocative to the political

forces which have signed agreements with the government and is also inconsistent with the prevailing atmosphere which require consensus to address the challenges the country is facing.

President Bashir to visit Egypt

President Al-Bashir is to visit Egypt to participate in NAM summit scheduled for 14-16 July. The summit will discuss a range of issues relating to the Non-alignment Movement with Darfur and the ICC likely to top its agenda, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

Sudan's Bashir says new plane defies sanctions

Reuters 5/7/09 - Sudan's president said on Sunday sanctions could not block development in his country, as he unveiled its first home-manufactured aircraft -- a \$15,000 training plane that runs on car fuel.

President al-Bashir spoke at the latest in a string of defiant rallies mounted after the ICC issued an arrest warrant against him in March, to face charges of masterminding atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region.

On Sunday he spoke at the launch of the Safat-01 aircraft, a two-seater propeller plane produced at Sudan's state Safat Aviation Complex, part of the country's Ministry of Defence, according to its website.

"Sudan has its own military industry. It makes tanks, missiles and many types of guns, all made by Sudanese hands," Bashir told hundreds of supporters outside the plant in Wadi Sayidina military area, north of the capital. "Today, Sudan has entered a new industry -- aviation," he added.

Bashir did not mention the global court directly, or the Western governments he says are supporting the legal case.

But he told the crowd in local dialect "What we are doing will enrage our enemies," adding "sanctions cannot stop development."

He added: "They conspired; they supported rebellions, and created rebellions. They pushed neighbouring countries, they imposed economic, diplomatic and political sanctions and what was the result? Everyday, thanks to God, his strength and power, we are moving forward."

Many electoral committees finalize constituency delimitation

A number of election committees in states have completed the demarcation of geographical constituencies and would submit their reports to the NEC by Thursday while others wait for details of the outcome of the census to delimitate the constituencies, *Al-Ayyam* reports.

Ashraf Qazi visits Abyei

Al-Sahafa reports SRSG Ashraf Qazi will visit Abyei today to assess the situation ahead of the arbitration decision expected within days. UNMIS media advisory stated Qazi will discuss with Abyei administration issues of the implementation of the CPA with a focus on the roadmap.

Meanwhile, *Al-Jazeera* TV channel hosted SRSG Ashraf Qazi who spoke about progress of the implementation of the CPA saying a lot of ground has been covered by cited referenda, elections and the Abyei as the challenges facing the CPA, *Al-Ayyam* reports. He said the three parties which had taken part in Washington conference would meet in Khartoum this month with

another meeting in Juba next month for further discussion on the CPA. Mr. Qazi warned that the failure of the implementation of the CPA would have negative effects not only on Sudan but on the entire region.

UN tells SPLM, NCP to respect The Hague ruling

UNMIS top official for southern Sudan David Gressly made a press statement yesterday requesting the GoNU and GoSS to fully honour their public pledges to abide by the final decision of the court based in The Hague. "We fully expect the GoNU and GoSS to honour their public pledges to abide by the court's final decision and implement its recommendations as soon as possible to help facilitate preparations for next year's voting," David Gressly said, according to *the Citizen*.

USG for PKO to visit Sudan

Miraya FM 6/7/09 - The UN Under-Secretary for Peacekeeping, Alan Le Roy, is expected to start a one week visit to Sudan on Tuesday. The visit of Le Roy came in coordination with UNAMID and UNMIS. Le Roy is expected to meet government officials.

Opposition seeking to unseat government – NCP

Al-Sahafa reports the NCP has said since the National Umma Party has lost hope to win upcoming elections; it has taken recourse to unlawful means to take power. NCP political secretary Mohamed Mandour Al-Mahdi yesterday accused the opposition political parties of attempts to change the government by unlawful means including the allegation that the present government would be illegitimate beyond July 9. He said the tenure of the present government would not expire before elections results are announced as per the CPA.

Meanwhile, NCP information secretary Kamal Obeid has rejected the Umma Party's justifications for its agreement with JEM. The Umma Party claimed its agreement with JEM was in line with Kenana Conference recommendations but Obeid said Kenana conference did not recommend conclusion of an agreement with an armed movement that does not recognize the government.

Khartoum to ask UNHCR about refugee resettlement

Al-Sahafa reports Sudan's Refugees Commission is likely to ask UNHCR office to account for activities of its office in Chad which is reportedly coordinating with several organizations to facilitate migration of Sudanese refugees in Chad to US, Australia, Canada and Israel. Refugees Commissioner Mohamed Al-Aghbash said the Commission would ask for an explanation over the migration phenomenon being facilitated by OPE, DHS and IOM.

Three SPLM members detained in northern Kordofan

Al-Sahafa reports local authorities in the town of Sudari, northern Kordofan, yesterday detained three SPLM leading figures accused of distributing statement on the food gap in the state. SPLM issued statement confirming detention of its members.

SPLA threatens to restart war

Al-Wifaq reports SPLM have warned to resort to war and fierce opposition should totalitarianism persists in Sudan. SPLM SG Pagan Amum at forum yesterday threatened to form a violent opposition front should the NCP continues to restrict freedoms. Amum stressed the need to allow the southern Sudanese to choose between unity and secession.

Ministerial reshuffle within southern Kordofan government expected

Al-Ahdath has learnt that Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun intends to dissolve the

state government and appoint a new one by 12th July 2009.

Darfur JEM severs contacts with AU Mbeki Panel

Sudan Tribune website 6/7/09 — The JEM announced yesterday that it would not deal with the AU panel that is looking into ways to resolve the conflict into the Western region of Sudan.

JEM issued a statement yesterday saying that the AU decision is a “blatant bias against the victims and siding with the perpetrator”.

“They chose to convert the AU from an organization aimed at serving the aspirations of the people of the continent in unity, development and prosperity...to one where they show solidarity to protect themselves and their reign and standing against the interests of the people”.

The Darfur rebel movement said that as Mbeki’s panel established by the AU is “an offspring from the original [AU organization] which calls for impunity...to find ways to save the villain from international prosecution”.

“Even though we held our pens and tongues in the past period besides addition to our dissatisfaction with Mbeki’s unrelenting support to Bashir and his refusal to receive any rebel groups or listen to its point of views during his term of power, but the AU decision in Sirte destroyed the last hope for any cooperation between the movement and Mbeki’s panel”.

JEM said that in line with the Darfur IDP’s refusal to deal with the panel adding that the conflict can be resolved through justice and returning rights.

The Darfur movement said it apologizes to other “genuine” members of Mbeki’s panel who came “to help the people of Sudan to get out of the crisis it is in”.

Ugandan rebels renew attacks in Sudan’s Western Equatoria state

Sudan Tribune website 6/7/09 – Residents of Dimbiro village near Yambio continue to flee their homes following last week reprisal attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

The attacks have been provoked by ongoing anti-LRA operations by the Ugandan army and the SPLA in the region.

“Ugandan rebels avoiding a multinational offensive have raided a village and killed at least 1 person, and abducting many other people including a lady identified as Mary Kazi with her four children,” confirmed the Deputy Governor Col Joseph Ngere.

Ngere added that, “The state government deplores the LRA clandestine attacks,” and emphasized that, “the government is doing its best to protect the innocent civilians from the LRA vicious attacks.”

“They are avoiding any conventional attack contact. They are not willing to confront SPLA forces.” stated Col Ngere.

The LRA rebels continue to attack the Western Equatoria villages, which they burn and loot, and kidnap civilians, said a local resident, Boutros Juma. He is the most-affected victim of the recent attack where he sustained injuries in left ribs and several wounds in his forehead.

"While [we] arrived in the village of Dimbiro [I] sensed a strange sound of like the platoons of goats grazing, it did not take long when LRA started looting chickens and other food items in the neighborhood and the birds started booing them," added Juma.

The attack was on 3rd of July at 3:00PM local time. "It caused panic in the villages of Dimbiro and Bawo, from where the residents have fled," Juma said.

Acting Governor earlier told reporters that, "the rebels had abducted two civilians in different raids over the last week period."

Following the rejection of the LRA leader Joseph Kony to sign a peace agreement to end more than twenty years of civil war in Uganda, the Ugandan army backed by the Congolese and southern Sudan begun a joint offensive in mid December 2008 to force him to sign the GOSS sponsored deal.

The LRA rebels are believed displacing their bases to Central Africa.

UN chartered Antonov crashes in North Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 6/7/09 — A Russian cargo plane crashed in North Darfur state on Monday, as a pilot was injured in the accident, the hybrid peacekeeping mission said in a statement released yesterday.

The Antonov 28, chartered by the UN, was bringing supplies to peacekeepers in the region when its nose wheel reportedly collapsed on landing at Saraf Omra in North Darfur, the UNAMID said in a statement.

Irish team arrive in Darfur to help free aid workers

Reuters 6/7/09 - Irish negotiators arrived in Sudan's Darfur region on Monday to help free two female aid workers, one Irish and one Ugandan, kidnapped from their base by armed men.

The women from the aid group GOAL were seized by up to eight armed men from their compound in the north Darfur town of Kutum on Friday evening, Sudanese police said -- the third time foreigners have been abducted in Darfur in four months.

The team of Irish diplomats and trained negotiators arrived in the north Darfur capital of El Fasher, 120km (75 miles) southeast of Kutum, on Monday morning, U.N. officials said.

"They will be there for as long as it takes," Ireland's honorary consul in Khartoum Ronnie Shaoul told Reuters.

"They are there to negotiate with whoever may have abducted the two women ... They have a few thin lines to work on. There have been lots of rumours and hearsay but nothing concrete."

He added the delegation was still waiting to hear from the kidnappers three days after the abduction, and had no information on their motive.

GOAL has named the kidnapped women as Hilda Kawuki, 42, from Uganda, and Sharon Commins, 32, from Dublin.

Al-Wifaq reports State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani has described the kidnapping of GOAL aid workers as mere activity of gangs and bandits who hanker after

financial gains, saying the security authorities are following up the incident closely.

Press and Publication Council calls on newspapers to have “ethics”

Miraya FM 6/7/09 - The Press and Publication Council called on all the social newspapers being published in the country to have ethics and respect for Sudanese values. A member in the Council, Dr. Mahi Din Titawi, said that the Council's committees would be directed to investigate any paper that violates public ethics.

Dr. Titawi said that the Press and Publication Council met yesterday in its ordinary sessions and discussed about the declining of written articles in the technical and social newspapers.

He added that the Council threatens to close down the newspapers that violate press ethics.