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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

## Main News

### *ICC move provokes diverse reactions*

**(Local dailies)** The Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Al-Samani Al-Wasila has warned that ICC indictment of senior Government officials would jeopardize the peace process particularly Darfur adding Sudan would not cooperate with ICC.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council, EU and AU representatives, African, Arab and Asian Ambassadors and informed them about the seriousness of the ICC move as it would have negative impact not only on peace and stability in Sudan but on security and stability of the region. Undersecretary of Foreign Office Dr. Mutrif Siddiq has reiterated Sudan Government commitment to SC resolution 1769.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said ICC Prosecutor is "playing with fire" describing his determination to indict senior government officials as threat to the peace process in Sudan and cooperation with the International Community. UN would be responsible for any deterioration of situations in Sudan, he said.

Minister of State for Information and Communication Dr. Kamal Obeid said ICC was political not legal court; it seeks to divert attention from trial of Omdurman attackers, endorsement of electoral law and Abyei arbitration-related meetings.

Presidential press advisor Mr. Mahgoub Fadul has described ICC prosecutor as terrorist adding Sudan would not cooperate with ICC. Ocampo has not visited Sudan, he has gathered his information from intelligence circles, he added.

NCP press release said ICC move is a conspiracy against Sudan calling it "irresponsible and cheap political blackmailing".

World circles are concerned that if senior government officials are indicted, GoS might react by expelling INGOs and UN troops as well as attacking peacekeepers in Darfur.

On Saturday July 12 President Bashir received a telephone call from SG Ban Ki-moon. The

President has reaffirmed to the SG Sudan's respect to all charters and conventions signed with UN but he has emphasized that Sudan would deal seriously and decisively with the suspicious ICC move. The President told SG of the seriousness of seizure of UN military equipments and armored vehicles by Darfur movements and urged UN to recover those equipments so that the Government was not forced to do that itself. The President said ICC move would have negative impact on the whole peace process and would increase sufferings in Darfur.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon has asked the President to provide necessary protection to UN troops and personnel adding that UN would continue cooperation with Sudan to implement all agreements.

A Government source told Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper that the African group in the Security Council were making efforts to withdraw the case from the ICC but if efforts do not succeed then the ICC case would affect the status of UN in Sudan, the hybrid operation besides the peace agreement.

According to the local media the entire Sudanese political forces, government and opposition have declared their categorical rejection to the ICC movements to prosecute senior Sudanese officials.

The Council of Ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting today to discuss ICC determination to indict Sudanese officials. According to AFP, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq said the authorities were stepping up security, particularly around the British, French and US embassies in Khartoum, and predicted "chaos" following any indictment of the president.

"We assured all diplomatic missions and UN offices. All of them fall under the protection of the government, including the (UN) peacekeepers, and the government is going to do their utmost to protect them," Sadiq added.

Fears have been voiced that naming Bashir could trigger a military response from either Sudanese forces or their proxies against UN and African Union peacekeepers, and embolden Darfur rebels who attacked Khartoum in May.

Mr. Ammar Abdul Rahman, in his column in Al-Wifaq newspaper of today captioned "The Hague" said all UN Agencies in Sudan should be expelled and rebellion in Darfur should be eliminated. The same newspaper reported today that the General Union of Sudanese Students has issued a statement calling for expulsion of UN Agencies. Mr. Mekki Al-Maghribi, in his column in the same newspaper has also urged the government to expel UNMIS.

Speaking to Akhbar Al Yom on ICC, the Presidential Advisor Abdullah Massar said UN institutions were being exploited by the superpowers to promote their political agenda.

### ***SPLM threatens to pull from Sudan cabinet over Amum probe***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – The political bureau of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) concluded its emergency session by refusing a decision by the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to suspend one of its ministers in the government of national unity. The emergency SPLM meeting in Juba said that the decision is a violation of the interim constitution.

The First Vice President and SPLM chairman Salva Kiir was quoted by the daily Al-Rayaam as saying that he was "disappointed" at the way Al-Bashir took the decision saying he only found out through the newspapers." As a First Vice President I should have been notified before the decision was made" he said.

### ***Arab ministers to meet over Sudan's Bashir indictment by ICC***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Sudan has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers after publication of reports saying prosecutor of the International Criminal Court may act against President Omar al-Bashir and seek his arrest on Monday.

Ambassador Hisham Yousef, head of the office of Arab League chief confirmed today the holding of the extraordinary meeting and explained that Syria supported the Sudanese demand for the meeting.

### ***African union says ICC should not obstruct political settlement of Darfur crisis***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — The African body for peace and security said today that Justice in Darfur should not obstruct the political efforts to settle the five year conflict in the troubled region.

International Criminal Court Deputy Prosecutor Mrs Fatou Bensouda briefed the Peace and

Security Council of the African Union on Friday 11 July on ICC effort to bring justice in Darfur, as the Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo prepares to present to the Judges in The Hague his second case in the Darfur situation, scheduled to take place on July 14.

Press reports say that ICC prosecutor plans to act against Sudanese government officials including President Omer al-Bashir for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

In a statement released after a meeting in the Ethiopian capital yesterday, the Council "expressed its strong conviction that the search for justice should be pursued in a way that does not impede or jeopardize efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace..."

The AU peace and security body said the UN Security Council itself, in a March 2005 resolution, had "emphasized the need to promote healing and reconciliation" in the region.

Sudanese Ambassador at the African Union organization, Akuei Bona Malwal, said " the Council stressed the need to promote a political settlement rather than resorting to the measures undertaken by the prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo."

In Ethiopia, Deputy Prosecutor Bensouda also met with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E. Jean Ping.

Prior to traveling to African Union Headquarters in Ethiopia, Mrs Bensouda attended the African Union Summit in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June - 1 July.

### ***Thousands rally in Sudan against UN court move***

**(Reuters)** - Thousands of protesters chanting "down, down USA!" rallied in Khartoum on Sunday after reports that the International Criminal Court (ICC) may seek the arrest of Sudan's president for alleged war crimes.

A senior European diplomat said on Friday the court's prosecutor was likely to seek the arrest of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in a case he will open on Monday about war crimes the ICC say were committed in Sudan's Darfur region.

"With our souls, with our blood we die for Bashir," the protesters chanted as they marched through the streets of Khartoum towards the offices of the United Nations.

The state-sponsored protest brought traffic to a standstill in the capital. Hundreds of people also

gathered near the cabinet office where the government was holding an emergency meeting to discuss the issue.

"The ICC does just what the European Union, the United States of America and Israel tell it to do," the protesters said in a statement to be delivered to the U.N. offices.

Sudan has said an ICC move against its top officials could undermine attempt to end the conflict in Darfur. Two senior government officials told Reuters Sudan would probably seek Chinese, Russian and African support at the United Nations to help block a warrant for Bashir.

The U.N. Security Council can pass a resolution suspending an ICC warrant or investigation for 12 months, which can be extended further. However, observers say once Bashir is named, the damage will be done and a suspension will do little to improve Sudan's relations with the West.

The issue could also pit the demands of the U.N.-backed ICC against U.N. interests in deploying a peace force in Darfur -- scene of the world's biggest humanitarian operation -- and aid officials fear a potential backlash.

### ***South Sudan army says completes Abyei withdrawal***

**(Reuters)** - South Sudan's army said on Saturday it had finished pulling out of the oil-rich Abyei area where southern troops clashed with Khartoum's forces in May, but accused the northern army of foot-dragging on its own pullout.

"We have pulled out. The forces are south of Abyei," Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Spokesman Peter Parnyang said, adding that the former southern rebel movement was "seriously disappointed" that the northern army remained in the area.

"They are dragging their feet," he said. Battles between the two forces in Abyei led to the displacement of some 50,000 people and killed scores, causing widespread concern a 2005 north-south peace deal that ended decades of war could unravel.

A senior official in the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Sudan said the SPLA's redeployment had been verified by their monitors. He did not give numbers of northern forces still in the area but said they were moving.

An SPLA soldier shot and wounded a U.N. and a northern army monitor last week and the northern withdrawal stopped, he said. "But they have now restarted," he added.

## ***UN/Agencies***

### ***Ban Ki-Moon regrets ICC move, says committed to UN deals with Sudan***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — The UN chief said he is ready to cooperate with the Sudanese government to implement the signed agreements. He further regretted the imminent indictment of Sudanese president according to Sudan official news agency (SUNA).

The United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has raised the security level to phase four for staff operating in the troubled region of Darfur. The measure has been implemented since Thursday, hours before leakage of the upcoming indictment of president al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Sudan has made a request to the secretary general of the League of Arab nations to hold this meeting," Sudanese ambassador to Egypt Abdel Moneim Mabruk told the Egyptian news agency.

In a telephone call with the President Omer al-Bashir, Ban Ki-Moon expressed the readiness of the international organization to cooperate with Sudan to implement all the signed agreements and understandings, the official SUNA reported this evening.

"Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, regretted the move of the International Criminal Court to arrest a number of senior state officials." the agency added.

SUNA also quoted the Sudan's U.N. ambassador Abdel-Mahmood Mohamed aa saying that Ban Ki Moon has promised to work on blocking the ICC indictments through his meetings with the P-5 members of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

This week the UN Secretary General yesterday had refused to comment on the speculations of Al-Bashir's indictments saying that "as a Secretary General I am not in a position to mention anything officially before the announcement by the ICC".

"In principal I believe that peace and justice should go hand in hand. Justice can be part of a peace process but peace without justice cannot be sustainable" he added.

However Ban Ki-Moon said he will assess the situation after the suspects are named next week.

### ***UN urges Sudan not to put on trial child rebels (ST)***

**(ST/APF)** — The special UN envoy on human



rights in Sudan urged the government on Thursday not to prosecute 89 "child rebels" arrested after an attack by Darfur rebels on Khartoum two months ago.

"We have recommended to the government that they should be treated as victims of war, not as combatants," Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Sudan Sima Samar told a news conference during her sixth visit to Khartoum.

"They should not be prosecuted. They should be reintegrated into society and reunited with their families. So the government promised that they would do that," Samar added.

UN agencies and journalists have visited the 89 juveniles at a detention facility outside Khartoum, where they appear to be in good health.

"I ask the government to treat them as a victim of war, not to expose them too much to the media in order not put them in danger and ensure their security in the future," said Samar, who will herself visit the children on Friday.

"During my visit I saw child soldiers everywhere almost, with the government forces and also with the different movements," she said.

"Child soldiers, as we all know, is a clear violation of international agreements and humanitarian law, and we condemn the (use of) child soldiers and we ask the government and also the rebel groups not to use the children."

Sudan says the children are aged from 11 to 17 and were press-ganged into Darfur rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement which attacked Khartoum.

## ***Darfur***

### ***Minni Minnawi rejects census outcome (Ray Al-Shaab)***

(Ray Al-Shaab) Speaking Shurooq TV, the Senior Presidential Assistant Minni Minnawi has threatened assert his control on Darfur if Government continue dragging its feet on DPA implementation. Asked whether he has opted for war, he said the choice should be made by the NCP, it should choose between war or peace. Mr. Minnawi has also rejected the results of the census.

### ***SAF seize 4 containers bearing UN logo in Haskanita***

(Akhir Lahza) SAF seized two trucks carrying four containers bearing UN logo in Haskanita. The persons manning the two trucks failed to establish UN ownership of the containers. Office of SAF spokesperson said the containers have not yet been opened due to delay of arrival of UN representative.

### ***Darfur rebels vow to protect civilians, aid workers***

(ST) - Two of the main rebel groups in Darfur pledged on Friday to protect civilians and aid workers in the western Sudanese region where a dire humanitarian situation has worsened amid escalating insecurity, a joint statement said.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement Unity faction also said that they would improve the flow of aid and intercept any stolen relief supplies or hijacked vehicles that move through their territories.

They vowed not to target civilians, destroy their property, or recruit children. Rapists would also be prosecuted.

"We strongly denounce all attacks on humanitarian workers, car-jacking and condemn the recent attack on UNAMID," the rebels said in a statement issued after a two-day meeting in Geneva.

### ***China violated the arms embargo on Sudan – BBC report***

(Sudan Tribune) – The Chinese government is providing training and equipments that are used by the Sudanese government in Darfur, BBC revealed in an in-depth report to be aired on Monday. The Panorama TV Programme investigated a batch of weapons that was sold to Sudan in 2005 including lorries that carried anti-aircraft guns. It showed pictures of plates on these trucks that have post-embargo dates.

### ***Chad accuses Sudan of violating its airspace***

N'DJAMENA, July 13 (Reuters) - Chad has accused neighbouring Sudan of violating its airspace by flying over a Chadian town on the border with Sudan's violence-torn Darfur, and said it will not tolerate any further violation of its territory. Relations between the oil-producing neighbours have long been tense, with each accusing the other of supporting insurgent groups. Rebel attacks across the border in both directions over the last two months have brought them close

to war.

"Sudan's air force has multiplied flights over ... Bahay, in Chad, over the last few days," Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Hissene said in a statement released late on Saturday.

An Antonov-type Sudanese military aircraft flew over Bahay's gendarmerie at low altitude on Friday, Hissene said, adding that air incursions were often preparation for attacks on the ground.

"Chad will not tolerate any further violation of its airspace," the statement said, adding that steps had been taken to inform the U.N. Security Council and the African Union.

Sudan and Chad signed a non-aggression pact in Senegal in mid-March.

But Darfuri rebels opposed to Bashir raided the Sudanese capital Khartoum in May, while rebels seeking to topple Deby in June attacked towns in eastern Chad where European Union troops are protecting thousands of civilian refugees.

The two countries blamed each other for the attacks. (For full Reuters Africa coverage and to have your say on the top issues, visit: <http://africa.reuters.com/>) (Reporting by Moumine Ngarmbassa; Writing by Ingrid Melander; Editing by Catherine Evans)