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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Britain proposes labeling attack on Darfur peacekeepers as potential war crime (ST)

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# Highlights

## Main News

The President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Bashir commented for the first time on ICC application. According to the English daily newspaper "**Sudan Vision**" the President said that ICC had no legal guardianship over Sudan and its charges were lies.

The First Vice President, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir, at meeting with Japanese delegation said the ICC movement would have negative impact on the overall situations in the country and the CPA. According to **Al-Sudani newspaper** he has called upon the International Community to stop any procedures against the President.

**Ray Al-Shaab** newspaper reported that the Governor of Northern Kordofan addressed a huge anti-ICC demonstration yesterday in the town of Obeid. In his address, the Governor said "**there will be no immunity for UN troops and its logistics base in Obeid if ICC attempt to violate sovereignty of Sudan**". He told the gathering that doors of jihad are open for citizens to express their rejection in the manner they deem appropriate. The rally handed over a petition of protest to the UN Logistics Base in El Obeid in which they rejected the ICC application.

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper reported that a million-man march would be staged on Monday to denounce ICC and daily demonstrations would also continue. According to the newspaper today's demonstration will be staged by students, tomorrow's demonstration will be for Darfurians in Khartoum and on Friday will be staged by worshipers and Sufi sects. The newspaper quoted the chairman of the Sudanese Workers Trade Unions as saying that President Bashir will visit Darfur soon.

Sudan News Agency (**SUNA**) quoted the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq as saying that withdrawing some of the United Nations personnel from Sudan was a usual procedure by the UN according to its own assessments of security situations. He told the Agency that he doesn't agree with the UN on the need for this step as the

situation is progressing well at all the levels. He pointed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed UN that protection and safety of the staff is the responsibility of the government which would remain committed to provide protection to the UN in all circumstances. He has described the UN decision to withdraw some of its personnel as unilateral, saying that the peacekeepers in Darfur would remain, no single element or machinery of UNAMID was withdrawn from the region.

The Consultative Council of Human Rights said the ICC application against the President of the Republic lacked professionalism and included no facts against a functioning president who leads a member country of the United Nations and the international community. In a briefing Tuesday, the Rapporteur of the Consultative Council of Human Rights, Dr. Abdul-Moniem Mohamed Taha, said that Sudan is not a member or signatory of the International Criminal Court. He said that Sudan is a member of the United Nations and committed to the resolutions of the UN and the Security Council, stressing that the UN Charter does not include any jurisdiction of the Security Council to refer any issue to any court in the world.

The citizens of South Kordofan State have issued statement affirming their readiness to confront all plots being hatched against the homeland, declaring their rejection to the ICC movements. The ICC application is intended to impede development and stability in the country.

In Nahr-al-Nil State masses have also staged demonstration expressing their rejection to what they described as suspicious movements of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Addressing the procession, the Governor of Nahr-al-Nil State, Prof. Ahmed Majzoub Ahmed, affirmed the need of unifying the national ranks to achieve sustainable development and to address Darfur issue.

According to **Akhbar Al Yom** daily newspaper, Darfur movements which are signatories to DPA have warned of possible collapse of the agreement if ICC issues warrant of arrest against President Bashir.

Darfur voluntary Organizations for Peace and

Development Network issued statement rejecting ICC application. It said ICC aims at complicating situation in Darfur, flaring disputes, sedition and war besides impeding the work of humanitarian organizations in the area.

Mr. Mohamed Hamed, Al-Watan newspaper's columnist, commenting on ICC application wondered why the government does not suspend activities of all NGOs and international organizations and expel their staff from Sudan because the reports they compile clash with realities on the ground.

Mr. Zainel Abideen Saleh, **Al-Sudani** newspaper's writer stated in his article that Ocampo allegations are meticulous American and western planning to divide Sudanese opposition and to embarrass Khartoum's friends.

Mr. Zuhair Al-Saraj, **Al-Sudani** newspaper renowned columnist, stated in his column that the solution lies in addressing Darfur issue. Mr. Osman Mirghani, also a well known columnist stated in his today's column in the same newspaper that the topmost national priority should be to end war in Darfur.

**Al-Watan** newspaper reported that the governor of South Darfur in statement to SMC said there were 10,000 mujahideen ready to repulse any aggression on the country and called upon Darfur movements to come to the negotiation table.

SPLM leader and former Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol said ICC movement was intended to derail the peace process. CPA implementation will be impossible under ICC procedures, he said.

The Social Affairs Ministry's Council of Dawa (propagation) has issued statement denouncing the ICC indictment of the President. **Al-Sudani** newspaper reported that the Council has called on all Imams of mosques to mobilize worshippers and sensitize them at Fridays' congregational prayers about the ICC movements.

In a statement to **Akhir Lahza** newspaper, the US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez said his country had no connection with ICC application against President Bashir as US is not signatory to Rome statute.

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reported that UNGA invited President Bashir to attend summit on malaria, with three other Presidents, on the sidelines of the

UNGA on 25 September.

**Al-Intibahad** newspaper stated that the Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressely said UN had no connection with ICC application. The mission will work with all parties to complete the peace process, he said.

According to **Al-Wifaq** newspaper, the Cabinet of the Government of National Unity issued statement rejecting the ICC application. The ICC indictment is part of anti-Sudan conspiracy, intended to humiliate and weaken the nation, it said. It is also intended to impede completion of the peace process, political stability and developmental projects in the country, it added.

**Ajras Al Huriyah** newspaper stated that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said ICC is an independent institution and UN should respect independence of judiciary. He said UN missions in Sudan would continue their work in a neutral manner, in cooperation with all parties to achieve peace and stability in the country.

### ***Khartoum denies access to UN flights landings***

(**Sudan Tribune**) Authorities of Civil Aviation in Khartoum have decided to deny UN flights access to landing, particularly flights seeking to land in Khartoum International Airports, reports said yesterday.

"Daily flights between Juba and Khartoum by the UN have been called off at Khartoum's request, since Sunday," an anonymous UN staff reportedly told the newspaper.

### ***UNAMID begins evacuation of staff, as Chinese arrive***

(**Sudan Tribune**) – While the last batch of Chinese peacekeepers will arrive tomorrow in Darfur, U.N. started today to withdraw from the troubled province staff amid fears of reprisals after the International Criminal Court moved to charge Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

The last batch of 400 Chinese peacekeepers is expected to arrive on Wednesday to Darfur. The 172 peacekeepers will participate in the construction of the necessary infrastructures to deploy the rest of the 26000 strong hybrid force.

Sudan news agency hailed the move saying they arrive while some countries begin to pull out their troops from the region fearing reprisals after the accusations leveled against the Sudanese

president by the ICC prosecutor.

The African Union-U.N. peacekeeping mission yesterday said it would fly out nonessential staff to Ethiopia and Uganda, despite assurances from Sudan that it would protect peacekeepers and humanitarian workers.

UNAMID staff left headquarters in El Fasher en route to the local airport, where the first batch was due to fly to Entebbe in Uganda.

"It's not an evacuation. We're temporarily relocating staff, some nonessential staff," said Josephine Guerrero, spokeswoman in Darfur for the U.N.-led peacekeeping mission.

"UNAMID is not pulling out. All the forces are going to be on the ground and humanitarian operations are continuing," she added, referring to the U.N.-African Union military and police force, only a third of which has deployed.

Officials in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, said about 200 staff would be flown out Tuesday and that further "relocations" would depend on security assessments

### ***France says no dialogue with individuals accused by ICC of war crimes***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — The French envoy at the United Nations (UN) Jean-Maurice Ripert hinted that his government may freeze contacts with the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir if the judges International Criminal Court (ICC) decided to issue an arrest warrant for him.

"The EU [European Union] rules are very clear. We have no dialogue and no cooperation with anyone indicted by the ICC; this is very clear" Ripert told reporters today at the UN headquarters.

However he stressed "this is not the case yet" referring to the fact the ICC judges' decision is still pending.

The French diplomat also suggested that his country will oppose any attempts to invoke article 16 of the ICC rules that empowers the UN Security Council (UNSC) to suspend prosecutions by the world tribunal.

"The position of France is very well known. We think that the judicial process should go on. The UNSC has seized the ICC with the case of Sudan" Ripert said.

"The UNSC should not mix up with the process, the due process of law" he added.

But in what appeared as a implying a compromise, Ripert said that it is "not too late for the Sudanese authorities to cooperate" with the ICC by handing over two suspects accused of war crimes in Darfur.

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

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

### ***EU urges Sudan to cooperate with ICC war crimes warrants***

**(AP)** — The European Union has urged Sudan to turn over to the International Criminal Court two leading war crimes suspects.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Eric Chevallier says such a gesture "would constitute an element of positive appreciation" of Sudan by the international community.

France holds the rotating EU presidency, and Chevallier was speaking Tuesday on behalf of the 27-member union.

Chevallier urged Sudan to hand former Interior Minister Ahmed Haroun and suspected janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb to the international court.

## ***UN/Agencies***

### ***UN chief concerned by use of child soldiers among Darfur rebels***

**(Reuters)** — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a new report that he was very worried that a Sudanese rebel group active in the country's war-ravaged Darfur region appeared to be using child soldiers.

In a bleak report on the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) released on Tuesday, Ban also said he was "deeply disappointed" by the lack of progress that has been made towards ending the 5-year-old conflict in western Sudan.

Ban said that a surprise attack on the Sudanese capital Khartoum in May by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement, which has generally confined its activities to Darfur, had highlighted the two

sides' inability to settle their differences at the negotiating table.

Khartoum had said after the JEM attack that some of the rebels it captured after the attack were children. Ban made it clear that he found this to be a disturbing development.

"I am particularly concerned by reports of child soldiers among the JEM combatants in Omdurman, in clear violation of international law," Ban said.

"My office is pressing for the release of the children detained by the government (of Sudan) during the attack and I condemn the use of child soldiers in all instances."

Khartoum accuses Chad of backing JEM and has refused to negotiate with either JEM or the Chadians since the attack. Chad accuses the Sudanese government of backing rebels hoping to bring down its government.

Both countries reject the other's allegations.

"Tensions between Chad and the Sudan and the suspension of diplomatic relations between the two countries should also be highlighted as a source of considerable instability in Darfur and volatility on both sides of the border region," Ban said.

There are currently around 9,500 UNAMID troops and police in Darfur, well below the planned 26,000-strong force.

## GoNU

### *US president threatens Sudan with more sanctions*

**(Sudan Tribune)** – The US president George Bush threatened the Sudanese government with more sanctions if he does not facilitate the deployment of peacekeepers and flow of aid in Darfur.

"We're trying to work with Bashir to make sure he understands that there will be continued sanctions if he doesn't move forward" Bush told reporters at a press conference in the White House today.

The US president refused to comment on the request submitted by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to the judges for issuance of arrest warrant against the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir on Monday.

"We're not a member of the ICC, so we'll see how that plays out" the US president said.

Bush said that the US wants to maintain a North South peace agreement and see full deployment of the long due African Union – United Nations troops in Darfur.

He also voiced frustration with the slow peacekeepers deployment.

"There's the same sense of consternation and the same sense of frustration that things haven't moved quicker. I talked to Ban Ki-moon about the issue and he told me — I think he told me that by the end of this year a full complement of AU troops will be there" Bush said

"Then the question is, will the government help expedite the delivery of humanitarian aid?" he added.

Bush met privately with his special envoy to Sudan yesterday for the first time since he returned from Khartoum last month.

The meeting was closed to the press but the White House spokesperson Dana Perino told reporters that Bush and Williamson discussed the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the North and South.

The deal also does not cover a separate conflict in the western region of Darfur, where tens of thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands driven from their homes since rebels took up arms in early 2003.

### *Integration of SPLM police officers in Blue Nile State into the unified police system begins*

**(SUNA)** - The Sub-Committee on Implementation of the Security Protocols of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States has started the process of integrating SPLM police officers in the unified police system whereas integration of the soldiers and non-commission officers had been completed in 2005. Blue Nile State Wali (Governor) and the Chairman of the Committee, Malik Aggar affirmed importance of the step as it is the most important articles of the arrangements of security which realizes security and stability for the citizens. Meanwhile, State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun said that the integration of the troops represents a real addition to the unified police.

### *President Al-Bashir lauds role of African Union and its Institutions for boosting peace in Darfur*



(SUNA)- President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, has commended the role being played by the African Union and its institutions along with its joint mission with the United Nations toward boosting the peace process in Darfur. During his meeting Tuesday at the Republican Palace with the Commissioner for Peace and Security at the African Union, Ramadan Al-Amamra, President Al-Bashir asserted the government keenness to boost the plan to reactivate the peace process in Darfur after the appointment of the new chief mediator of the UN and African Union for Darfur, Djibril Yipènè Bassolé, by deployment of 80% of the UNAMID before the end of the current year 2008. In a statement to the press after his meeting with President Al-Bashir, Al-Amamra said that he and his colleagues came out of their meeting with President Al-Bashir assured and satisfied that the Sudan government and its institutions have adopted the required arrangements to help the joint UN and African Union Mission for Darfur (UNAMID) continue its task in Darfur. He denied the reports on evacuation of the UNAMID personnel in Darfur, referring to precautionary measures that were adopted by all the peace missions following the recent attack which claimed lives of at least seven of the UNAMID troops in Darfur.

### ***China worried by ICC accusations against Sudan president***

(Sudan Tribune) — China today expressed concern about the accusations of genocide and war crimes by the ICC prosecutor against the Sudanese president yesterday, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao expressed "serious concern and worry" about the request by Occampo to the ICC judges to issue an arrest warrant against al Bashir. He further called on parties concerned to take a prudent attitude, and properly settle divergences through consultation.

"ICC's relevant move should help the stability of Sudan and the proper settlement of the Darfur issue, instead of the other way round," Liu said.

China would continue to consult with other members of the U.N. Security Council about whether to block the International Criminal Court from issuing the arrest warrant, but said he "cannot speculate" what the results of the talks will be, Liu said.

China had carried out consultations with relevant sides within the United Nations Security Council, and hoped parties concerned could reach consensus on the Sudan matter, Liu added.

## ***Darfur***

### ***Britain proposes labeling attack on Darfur peacekeepers as potential war crime***

(AP) — Britain proposed Tuesday night that the United Nations Security Council strongly condemn last week's brazen attack on peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region and label it "extreme violence" that could be a war crime.

The proposal came ahead of Wednesday's scheduled council debate over the status of the beleaguered U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force, which due to fears of increasing violence has been pulling out all but its most essential civilians. Britain's U.N. mission said it hoped the statement would be unanimously adopted as a formal council statement on Wednesday.

On July 8, a convoy of 200 gunmen riding on horseback and SUVs mounted with anti-aircraft weapons ambushed dozens of U.N.-A.U. peacekeepers, killing seven and wounding at least 19 in fierce battles that lasted more than two hours. Five of the 61 Rwandan soldiers and two police officers, one from Ghana and the other from Uganda, were killed.

The situation was made more volatile by Monday's request from the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court for an arrest warrant for Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the past five years in Darfur.

Britain's proposed statement on last week's ambush would have the Council say that it was "particularly concerned that the attack was premeditated, deliberate and intended to inflict casualties," but also emphasize that "attacks on U.N. peacekeepers during an armed conflict can constitute war crimes."