



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report

20 July 2008

By Public Information Office

Local news headlines (Arabic language press, SUNA, state TV and Radio)

- Arab League ministerial meeting supports Sudan (state TV)
- Anti-ICC demonstration continue (state TV/Al-Intibaha)
- Worshipers, Scholars stage demonstration of rage in Khartoum rejecting ICC allegations against President Al-Bashir (SUNA)
- President family not concerned by ICC (Akhbar Al Yom)
- Ocampo allegations endangers CPA (Al-Sahafa)
- Sudan begins diplomatic campaign to refute ICC charges (Al-Rai Al-Aam/Qowat Musalaha)
- NISS chief: We will not give in (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Presidential advisor: Sudan will react to Ocampo with more development and unification of national ranks (Al-Qowat Al-Musalaha)
- GoS agreed to resume diplomatic ties with Chad (BBC Arabic Services)
- Minnawi is not happy with slow implementation of DPA (Al-Khartoum)
- Local press widely circulates allegations about Ocampo's behaviour
- SPLA military buildup near Abyei (Al-Intibaha)
- Djibril Bassolé arrives in Khartoum (SUNA)
- International Union of Muslim Scholars urges Muslim scholars to stand against ICC prosecutor's allegations (SUNA)

Websites/ International headlines

- Darfur rebels say Sudanese plane bombed Jebel Moon area (ST)
- Darfur JEM deplors Arab league, AU position on ICC indictment (ST)
- Arab FM might ask Sudan to hand over ICC suspects – report (ST)
- Darfur envoy 'impressed' on first Sudan visit (AFP)
- Arab nations “agree Sudan action” – BBC
- Interview: From *Newsweek Magazine*

Local news coverage (Arabic language press, SUNA, state TV and Radio)

State TV reported that Arab League ministerial meeting held in Cairo supported Sudan Government position on ICC. The Arab League Secretary General Umro Musa told press conference in Cairo that ICC request of warrant was extremely serious development. Musa is visiting Sudan today to present a proposal to the Sudanese government for addressing the issue. He declined to elaborate about the proposal before it is presented to the Sudanese authorities.

State TV main news bulletin showed Anti-ICC demonstrations continue being staged across the country. “Death for Ocampo” shouted Friday worshippers. In eastern Sudan (Kassala), demonstrators have also rejected the request of warrant against the President and shouted “Ocampo is traitor”. The rally is a clear message to Ocampo and his agents in Britain, America and Sudan, **Al-Intibaha** quoted Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as saying while addressing a conference of Hadandawa tribes in eastern Sudan.

Akhbar Al Yom newspaper of yesterday quoted the family of President Bashir in Hosh Banaga area (south of Shendi) as saying that they were not concerned by the ICC move, as defending their son is the duty of Sudanese peoples not the family. Al Bashir has no money or property to be confiscated, the family declared.

The request for warrant against President Bashir may endanger the CPA, efforts for democratic transformation and forthcoming elections, warned the First Vice President Salva Kiir in press release yesterday, according to **Al-Sahafa** newspaper. SPLM is conducting contacts with the International Community to address the issue, he said.

Sudan began a diplomatic campaign to block ICC request for warrant, report **Al-Rai Al-Aam/Qowat Musalaha** newspapers. Vice President Taha accompanied by Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman left for Libyan to brief Libyan leader on the latest developments with regard to ICC request for warrant of arrest against the President. Presidential Assistant, Nafie Ali Nafie accompanied by the State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Karti will leave today for Qatar for the same purpose. Presidential Advisor Ghazi Salah Al Din will visit Iran and Kuwait for similar consultations.

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper reported that the Director General of the National Security and Intelligence Services (NISS) Gen. Salah Gosh addressing a gathering of residents of Noori area yesterday reiterated the state refusal to hand over any Sudanese national for prosecution abroad. The GoNU will not succumb to political pressures for concessions, he said. The GoNU has prepared itself to confront enemies, we will react to the international and regional powers being exploited to target us in the manner we deem fit, he added.

The present ICC is part of neocolonialism, says the Presidential Advisor Abdullah Masar while addressing a symposium organized by Sudan Embassy in Cairo, according to **Al-Qowat Al Muslaha** newspaper. Sudan is passing through a critical stage, Sudan will respond to Ocampo with additional development and unification of national ranks, he added.

BBC (Arabic Services) reported that the State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al Wasila said Sudan Government agreed to an initiative by Senegal to resume diplomatic relations with Chad. Chadian Information Minister Mohamed Hussain has welcomed efforts to resume diplomatic ties with Sudan. The Chadian Minister also pointed out that his country was committed to cooperate with ICC.

The Senior Presidential Assistant Minni Minnawi phoned President Bashir to express support to government position on ICC allegations, says Presidential press advisor Mahgoub Fadul, according to **Al-Khartoum** newspaper. He said Minnawi is in Darfur in keeping with his position as Chairman of the Darfur Transitional Authority. He added that Minnawi was unhappy with the slow implementation of the DPA.

The article published by the Daily Telegraph (UK) “Omer Bashir of Sudan’s Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo should resign” is widely circulated by local press under different headings such as “Ocampo is haunted by moral scandal”, “Ocampo is charged with rape case”, “Ocampo electrifies ICC atmosphere” and “Ocampo is charged with sexual misconduct”. These headlines appeared in **Akhbar Al Yom, Al-Wifaq, Al-Sudani** and **Al-Khartoum** newspapers.

It should be remembered that it is UN that lodged complaint to ICC against Sudan so the solution lies in UN withdrawing its case, if this does not happen then it is UN that is behind anti-Sudan conspiracy, says Mr. Khalid Hassan Kassala, **Al-Intibaha** columnist, in his column of today.

Likelihood of arresting Bashir is zero, says former SRSG Jan Pronk in statement to Dutch Radio (NOS), according to **Akhbar Al Yom** newspaper.

Sudan Bar Association issued a statement rejecting ICC request of warrant against Al Bashir. GoS is not party to the Rome Statute so ICC rules are not binding on Sudan, ICC is not a UN Agency and UN charter does not authorize any of its institution to subject any member to ICC, says the statement, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper.

SUNA reported that the Secretariat General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars has urged Muslim scholars allover the world and the followers of all religions to stand up against the allegations of the prosecutor of the ICC against Sudan. A statement said the ICC has no jurisdictions over Sudan, since Sudan is not a party to the statute of the court.

Al-Intibaha newspaper said it learned from informed sources that SPLA in southern Kordofan continues security violations in the State. It has gathered 600 police personnel in the town of “Anit” (south of Bahr el Arab) commanded by a Brigadier and supported by six tanks. Intention is to capture Abyei once brigade 31 withdraws.

The First Vice President Salva Kiir will visit Uganda next week for discussion on LRA presence in southern Sudan, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper.

AU-UN Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibril Yipènè Bassolé, arrived in Khartoum Saturday evening on an official visit to the country for talks on Darfur, SUNA reported. The selection of Mr. Bassole as chief mediator is excellent as he has extensive knowledge on situations in Africa and has distinguished relations with the international community, says State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Karti, according to SUNA.

Website/International news coverage

Darfur rebels say Sudanese plane bombed Jabal Moon area (ST)

(Sudan Tribune) — Sudan air force yesterday bombed the village of Serf close to Jebel Moon area killing one civilian and injured a child, the Justice and Equality Movement said today.

Ali Alwafi, JEM military spokesperson said an Antanov plane attacked the village of Serf in Jabal Moon area in West Darfur on Friday morning at 10.30 and dropped more than 20 bombs.

He further said that Abdel Nabi Ali Abdel Nabi, the village Chief was killed and injured a four-year old child gravely.

Alwafi said the village was empty from any rebel presence. "There were no movements of fighters in the area at the time of the attack."

Sudanese President holds telephone conversation with Libyan leader

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudanese President Omer Hassan al-Bashir today held a telephone conversation with the Libyan leader Muammar al-Gadhafi on the charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes filed against him by the ICC prosecutor.

Al-Bashir informed Kaddafi about the real reasons behind the International Criminal Court's indictment against him, reported Jana the official news agency.

President al-Bashir reiterated his deep appreciation for the stances of the Libyan leader to bring about peace and stability in Darfur.

He appealed to Kaddafi "to continue in his familiar stances in support of the Sudanese people until the achievement of a lasting peace in Darfur."

Darfur envoy 'impressed' on first Sudan visit

(AFP) — The new international mediator for the Darfur conflict said on Sunday he was impressed to see initiatives for peace and dialogue during his first visit to Sudan since his appointment.

"I was impressed to see... desire and initiatives to start to promote dialogue, peace and stability in Sudan. And this is the direction in which I am going to work in the coming days," Djibril Bassole told reporters.

His visit comes with Sudan on a diplomatic offensive in a bid to avert legal action against President Omar al-Bashir after the prosecutor of the world court sought his arrest warrant on charges of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Although appointed joint African Union-United Nations mediator for Darfur last month, Bassole told reporters that he was in Sudan while still Burkina Faso foreign minister to familiarize himself with the issues.

He described the task ahead as "difficult, but not impossible" and said it would be for the Sudanese to define the main priorities of his job.

"We need to call for an end to hostilities to create the conditions for finding a comprehensive political solution," Bassole added.

Darfur JEM deplures Arab league, AU position on ICC indictment

(Sudan Tribune) — A Darfur rebel group slammed resolution by the Arab League today that backed Sudan in its row with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ahmed Hussein spokesperson of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) challenged the Arab League statement saying that Sudanese laws do not contain provisions for war crimes.

"Leaving aside the fact that the Sudanese judiciary is heavily influenced by the executive branch, there is nothing in the penal law that punishes perpetrators of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity," Hussein told Sudan Tribune by phone.

"So from a legal standpoint this part of the resolution [Arab League] is a flawed one," he added.

"I really fear that the Arab League will find itself in a position where it is conspiring with the Sudanese government against the people of Darfur. In the long run this may turn out disastrous," the JEM official said.

Hussein said that the Darfur displaced want peace and returning to normal life but stressed that "justice is a key component of settlement".

The JEM spokesperson also criticized the African Union (AU) for opposing the ICC indictment.

“Article 4 of the AU’s Constitutive Act confers the right by the body to step in when there are grave violations of human rights in any member state. This includes war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity,” he said.

“So why did the AU not invoke this clause? Do they not think that the situation in Darfur is severe enough after 5 years?” he added.

Arab nations “agree Sudan action” – BBC

Arab foreign ministers say they have agreed a plan of action to defuse the crisis between Sudan and the ICC. They met in Cairo after the ICC's chief prosecutor said he would seek to indict Sudan's president on charges of war crimes and genocide in Darfur. Ministers said the ICC move had set a dangerous precedent.

Amr Moussa, secretary general of the Arab League, said he would travel to Sudan on Sunday to discuss their plan. However, he declined to reveal its details at the end of Saturday's emergency meeting. Mr Moussa said that Arabs had to work closely with the African Union and the UN to protect the fragile peace process in Sudan.

In a joint resolution issued at the end of the meeting, foreign ministers of the 22-nation Arab League said the ICC move was not acceptable and undermined Sudan's sovereignty. *"The council decides solidarity with the Republic of Sudan in confronting schemes that undermine its sovereignty, unity and stability and their non-acceptance of the unbalanced, not objective position of the prosecutor general of the Internal Criminal Court,"* the resolution said.

According to *Reuters*, the final communiqué of the meeting said the ministers "called for giving the priority for political settlement ... and called for an international high-profile summit to push the political process in Darfur."

Interview: From Newsweek Magazine

NEWSWEEK: How will the ICC go about proving a link between Bashir and the crimes in Darfur?

Tom Parker: The ICC has been operating with the major handicap that it doesn't have investigators on the ground. But there are plenty of organizations, both international and indigenous, that collect information. There are plenty of refugees who can tell about their experience [and] you've got African Union and U.N. peacekeepers on the ground, as well. They write reports which are certainly going to be made available to the ICC."

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.