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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local news coverage (Arabic and English language press and TV)

CPC discusses OAG

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper reported that the CPC met yesterday in Khartoum to listen to a report from CJMC about the CPA implementation, the status of the Other Armed Groups (OAGs), SAF redeployment north of 1956 and progress of implementation of the CPC's decisions (CPC/13 & 14). The report confirmed UNMIS role to assist implementation of CPA's security protocols.

Troops pullout from Abyei good step – UN

Rai Al-Shaab carried a report that UN described completion of withdrawal of troops from Abyei as a good step and urged deployment of joint police in the area. The UN **Regional** Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly told Miraya FM that UN, in collaboration with humanitarian agencies, would work for the return of civilian population to the area after security and humanitarian situations were assessed.

SLA ambushes convoy in Darfur

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that SLA (Minnawi) ambushed an administrative convoy on Sunday en route from El

Fasher to Nyala. The convoy was attacked at the town of Shengil Tobai. "Four killed on SLA side and two others wounded and some commercial vehicles were destroyed when the force escorting the convoy clashed with SLA," SAF spokesperson Osman Al-Aqbash told Sudan Media Centre (SMC).

Why Salva Kiir's candidacy at this time?

"Anyway, many observers viewed SPLM's decision for Salva Kiir to run presidential elections as fishing in troubled waters while others construed it as opportunistic and blackmailing position," says Kamal Hassan Bekhit, in his regular column in **Al-Rai Al-Aam** captioned "why Salva Kiir's candidacy at this time?" He says, "SPLM has the right to nominate the person it deems fit. However this is a wrong time and it confirms SPLM's unclear position on Ocampo's allegations". "They are pro-Ocampo and they must have been informed about the indictment before it was made public," he adds. "Isn't Roger Winter their adviser," he wonders. Bekhit is editor-in-chief of Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper.

Turabi supports Salva Kiir candidacy

Al-Sudani stated that the leader of the Popular National Party Hassan Turabi told Al-Jazeera TV that he supports Salva Kiir's candidacy for presidential elections.

3 killed in South Sudan

Three persons were reportedly killed last Sunday when unidentified gunman fired at a passenger bus heading for Juba. The wounded were taken to Juba for treatment. Another bus coming from Nimule was also attacked shortly after the first incident close to the scene of the first attack.

PNP wants its detainees released

Rai Al-Shaab stated that Turabi-led Popular National Party (PNP) urged President Bashir yesterday to free 40 PNP's detainees jailed in connection with the so-called "subversive attempt" to overthrow the government. "President Bashir's amnesty should have included all detainees," says Hassan Abdullah Al-Hussain, PNP official.

12 entry points for Khartoum

Local dailies reported that the Ministry of Interior decided to set up twelve points for entering Khartoum. Army and police units will guard these entrances. The arrangement is part of a plan to protect civilians' lives and property, facilitate their movement and to secure Khartoum from any infiltrations. The plan was presented to a police meeting held yesterday chaired by DG of Police Gen. Mohamed Najeeb.

Wednesday holiday

Local dailies said that the Cabinet's General Secretary announced that Wednesday July 30 will be an official holiday across the country on the occasion of *Isra'a walmirag*.

Website/International news coverage

U.N. council split on Sudan genocide indictment

(Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council was split on Monday over an effort by Libya and South Africa to have the council prevent the International Criminal Court from indicting Sudan's president for genocide.

The council discussed the Libyan and South African proposals after the ICC's chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, asked the court's judges to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's over war crimes in Darfur.

South Africa and Libya, backed by Russia and China, want to include a paragraph halting any ICC moves in a resolution to extend the mandate of a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which expires on Thursday.

But the United States, France and other Western countries made it clear that they wanted to keep two issues separate. As a result, the council failed to reach any agreement.

"We have a division in the council at this point," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters. He said there was no point in linking the UNAMID mandate to any possible future indictments by the ICC.

"This shouldn't be held hostage," he said. "Everyone is in agreement that it should be extended. What people are in disagreement on is if the Article 16 issue should be dealt with now. We have to go forward... with what everyone agrees to."

Under Article 16 of the ICC statute, the 15-nation Security Council can pass a resolution suspending the court's

investigations or prosecutions for a year at a time.

The court, based in The Hague, is not expected to make a decision on Moreno-Ocampo's recommendation for several months.

UNSC in heated debate over deferring indictment of Sudan president

(Sudan Tribune) — The UN Security Council met behind closed doors to discuss extending the mandate of the joint UN-African Union (AU) force in Darfur which is due to expire on July 31st. The extension which was supposed to be mere formality evolved into a full blown debate on deferring the ICC indictment of Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

On Friday, the Inner City Press website reported that Libya wanted to include a paragraph that mentions the possibility of invoking Article 16 of the ICC Statute regarding the authority of the UNSC to suspend its work on a case. However, a UN diplomat who attended yesterday's closed session of the SC told Sudan Tribune that a number of countries wanted the UK-sponsored UNAMID resolution to incorporate an affirmative decision to suspend ICC work in Darfur and not just mention this as a possibility. According to the UN source, supporters of the Libyan proposal included China, Russia, South Africa, Burkina Faso and Indonesia. Some SC members reportedly claimed that to ignore the call to invoke Article 16 by the AU, the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) would be a "sign of disrespect" by the SC.

The French delegation stated there should be no interference in the ICC process and noted that the judges had yet

to respond to the prosecutor's request. The US saw no need to move on the issue since there was no imminent threat to peace in the region and maintained that peacekeeping and justice should be kept separate. However, the Russians said the SC had a responsibility to be proactive when it came to potential problems rather than simply reacting once problems occur. South Africa pointed out that not to refer to the possibility of an ICC suspension would embolden Darfur rebel groups. Offering a compromise, Costa Rica proposed taking note of Article 16 in the UNAMID resolution.

The UN diplomat indicated that many who supported the Libyan proposal seemed resigned to the fact that they would not be able to gain enough votes. "I highly doubt the Chinese or the Russians will veto UNAMID extension simply to force the SC to include the ICC issue" he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, US Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad said that UNAMID "cannot be held hostage [to the ICC deferral issue]". "Everyone is in agreement that it should be extended. What people are in disagreement on is if the Article 16 issue should be dealt with now. We have to go forward... with what everyone agrees to" he added.

If UNAMID resolution is adopted without addressing the ICC issue Sudan can only hope for a standalone resolution on it. It is widely expected that China and Russia would back such a step but neither have tabled a formal resolution.

Sudan president cancels Zambia trip amid ICC row

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir abruptly canceled a scheduled trip on Monday to Zambia, according to the London-published daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat. Zambia is hosting the Smart Partnership programme for developing nations. It would have been Bashir's first trip abroad since the ICC announcement but unnamed Sudanese officials said the decision to cancel the visit was in no way related. Economic adviser Badr Al-Deen Suleiman will represent Sudan instead. The report notes that Zambia is a party to the Rome Statute which forms the basis of the ICC and has the legal obligation to apprehend Al-Bashir if judges issue an arrest warrant for him. Last week, Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade told Bashir during a phone conversation that he would not be able to offer him refuge if a warrant is issued for his arrest. Speaking from Chicago, Wade told the Senegal News Agency (APS) that he had informed Al-Bashir that as a party to the ICC, Senegal could not "make an exception".

Eastern Sudan Beja, SPLM discuss electoral alliance

(Sudan Tribune) — Former rebels from eastern Sudan are in talks to draw up an electoral alliance with counterparts in southern Sudan in a bid to unseat President Omer al-Bashir, one of its members said Monday. Osman Musa Bawanin, chairman of the Beja Congress advocating the rights of people in eastern Sudan, said his group had agreed with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on a 40-item memorandum on how to

execute the campaigns. "We want to go into a strong alliance at all levels of the elections," Bawanin said in Juba. "The Beja Congress will actually support the SPLM for the presidency."

Top SPLM decision makers met in Juba last weekend to discuss a strategy for the elections. "Our working relationship with the other southern parties is strong and we are going to maintain it," deputy SPLM secretary general Yasser Arman told reporters.

SPLA delegation visits Rwanda to study army management

(Sudan Tribune) — A high ranking delegation from the Southern Sudan army has begun a seven-day visit to Kigali to study the organisation and management of the Rwandan army. The delegation comprised seven generals and led by Maj Gen Kuol Arob, head of the Joint Technical Committee of the SPLA's Joint Defence Board.

The delegation is to hold talks with the Rwandan Defence Minister and the Chief of General Staff Gen. James Kabarebe as well as the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, James Musoni and Minister of Local Government, Protais Musoni.

A statement said the SPLM generals will discuss issues related to demobilisation, and national reconciliation with the Rwanda National Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, and Rwanda

National Unity and Reconciliation Commission.

Two killed following clashes with the police in White Nile State

(Sudan Tribune) — Sudanese police have killed two civilians in White Nile state following clashes after a dispute over compensation for farmers whose land had been confiscated to make way for a sugar plant construction.

Farmers in the village of Alawag, along the Nile south of Khartoum, clashed on Monday with the security force after their refusal to open the highway going to Khartoum and Kosti. Two protesters were killed and two other wounded. They security forces also said seven policemen were injured.

"The people who closed the road attacked the police and subsequently seven police were injured, two civilians were killed and another two civilians were injured," said a statement issued by the Sudanese police in Khartoum.

Al-Jazeera TV office in Khartoum said security forces had confiscated video footage filmed by one of their crew covering the deadly clashes.

SLM founder calls on rebel factions to reunite

(Sudan Tribune) — The founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement, Abdel Wahid al-Nur addressed a call to all the SLM/A factions urging them to reunite under the umbrella of the movement. Currently on a three-week tour of the US, the rebel chief urged all SLM factions to come together. Speaking in Washington, he said the

"time of unity has come, it is high time for us to gather and settle our differences what ever the reason was," he added. "We should leave our divergences behind and sit together guided by the objectives of the movement and the five years of agony and suffering of our families and relatives."

Al-Nur said the people of Darfur people would not forgive "our divisions and quarrels while they continue to suffer on daily basis in the camps of displaced and refugees or exposed to attacks carried out by the government forces and its militias." "United we can defend the rights of our people in peace or in war" he added.

Head of Darfur peacekeeping mission praises consortium report

(Sudan Tribune) – The chief of Darfur peacekeeping mission has praised a 10 pages report issued by a consortium of rights groups calling for effective support to the joint hybrid mission in order to enable it to protect civilians.

In a report released today, the Darfur Consortium, a coalition of more than 50 African and international human rights and civil society organisations, denounced the failure of world leaders to keep their promises on peacekeeping, thereby leaving Darfuris without protection from violence.

"Although the report is being closely studied by UNAMID, Mr. Adada's first reaction has been to express his appreciation to the Darfur Consortium for the effort in producing such a report," a UNAMID press statement issued today said. Adada agreed with the report about

the critical shortages UNAMID continues to face in the area of troops, personnel, equipment and logistics. He thanked the Consortium for its support to UNAMID efforts to get the international community to live up to its commitments and facilitate the mission's implementation of its mandate. He reiterated UNAMID's determination to achieve its goals and provide protection to the people of Darfur and to aid workers as well as the mission's own staff.