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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

Local News Headlines

- China hints to support suspension of Bashir's indictment (Sudan Vision)
- SC to meet today (Al-Sahafa)
- French-British proposals (Rai Al-Aam)
- Taha to meet Amr Musas (Rai Al-Aam)
- Abyei administration (Al-Sahafa)
- JEM children to be reunited with families (Sudan Vision)
- North-South border demarcation (El Sharee El Siasi)
- LRA wants Ugandan troops out of Southern Sudan (Al-Sudani)

Websites/International Headlines

- Darfur activists urge world to send helicopters to UNAMID (ST)
- UNSC breaks deadlock over Darfur peacekeeping resolution (ST)
- Egypt, Uganda agree more time needed for Sudan's Bashir (ST)
- SUDAN: Hope for Abyei's displaced as troops move out (IRIN)

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Highlights

Local news coverage (Arabic and English language press)

China hints to support suspension of Bashir's indictment

Sudan Vision carried a report that China hinted it would support the proposal submitted by Libya and South Africa to the SC to insert a provision to halt the ICC move in a resolution to extend the mandate of the UNAMID troops. Chinese Vice President, Xi Jinping stated that his country was concerned about an ICC case against Sudan's President for alleged genocide in Darfur and its impact on the peace process, adding that the relevant parties should consider the Arab League and African Union stances on the issue and to move cautiously to avoid any harm to the peace process in Darfur.

SC to meet today

Al-Sahafa reported that the SC will hold a decisive meeting today to extend UNAMID's mandate and to discuss African group's proposal to suspend Ocampo's application. The African groups's proposal calls for inclusion into UNAMID's mandate resolution the suspension of Ocampo's request for warrant against Bashir.

French-British proposals

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-Waseela said France and Britain proposed handing over of Haroun and Koshayb to ICC, resolution of Abyei issue and removal of obstacles impeding UNAMID in return for deferment of Bashir's indictment for one year. "Sudan Government is committed to facilitate work of UNAMID," he said.

According to **Al-Intibaha** newspaper the French Foreign Ministry denied submitting written proposals to Sudan in connection to ICC.

Taha to meet Amr Musas

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that the Sudanese Vice President Taha and Arab League Secretary General Amr Musa will reportedly meet today in Cairo to discuss coordination to address Ocampo's request for warrant against Bashir. Taha is in Egypt heading Sudan delegation for ministerial joint commision meetings. Taha has commended Egypt's stance supporting Sudan in international and regional fora particularly over ICC's application.

Abyei administration

Al-Sahafa carried a report that the Presidency is expected to meet on Monday to announce formation of an interim administration for Abyei to facilitate the return of IDPs by mid August. A police unit will deploy in the area on Saturday.

JEM children reunited with families

Sudan Vision stated that the General Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid Hasabo Mohamed Abdel-Rahman said the released children (attack on Omdurman) would be handed over to their families while the Chadian children would be handed over to the ICRC in two weeks.

North-South border demarcation

El Sharee El Siasi reported that the 1.1.1965 North-South border demarcation committee directed its subcommittee tasked with classification of documents to speed up its work so that a preliminary report on border demarcation is submitted to the Presidency.

JEM leader hospitalized

Al-Wifaq newspaper reported that JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim was admitted to hospital in the Chadian capital of N'djamena. Khalil was wounded in an attempt by Chadian opposition to kidnap him. Chadian opposition said Khalil would remain their target so long as he is on Chadian soil

LRA wants Ugandan troops out of Southern Sudan

Al-Sudani stated that LRA demanded expulsion of Ugandan troops from southern Sudan. GoSS Vice President Machar has reportedly received a message to that effect. **Sudan Tribune** reported that GoSS President Salva Kiir yesterday warned LRA leader Kony to quickly sign the peace agreement or he would face other options.

Website/International news coverage

Sudan to Execute Darfur Rebels

(Reuters) Sudan is set to execute eight members of the Darfuri rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), which is accused of orchestrating an attack near the capital in May.

The eight were captured by Sudanese forces after the unprecedented strike on May 10, which took place in Omdurman, near Khartoum and left more than 200 people dead.

The attack marked the first time the Darfur conflict had reached the capital's environs.

The eight, aged between 25 and 35, will be executed by hanging, but the sentences still need to be ratified by the Appeals' Court and the High Court and approved by the president.

A defense lawyer for the eight said the trial was politically motivated and unfair.

Darfur activists urge world to send helicopters to UNAMID

(ST/Reuters) — The world could easily provide helicopters needed by Darfur peacekeepers and NATO states alone could provide over six times the number required, Darfur campaigners said in a report on Thursday.

A lack of helicopters is one of the main problems facing the U.N.-African Union mission in Sudan's Darfur region, which is far below its full strength and is also

struggling with delays due to the Sudanese government and U.N. bureaucracy.

The UNAMID force needs six attack helicopters, 18 for transport and one for civilian use, but the countries asked for help have said they have none available.

A report published on Thursday said many countries would easily be able to provide the helicopters required.

"Many of these helicopters are gathering dust in hangars or flying in air shows when they could be saving lives in Darfur," said a foreword to the report by ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and child rights activist Graca Machel said.

"This report sets out for the first time which states have the necessary helicopters and estimates how many are available for deployment to Darfur."

The report named the Czech Republic, India, Italy, Romania, Spain and Ukraine as countries which between them could readily provide 71 transport helicopters to the mission. It added NATO member states could provide 104 helicopters.

India, which is traditionally a contributor to U.N. peacekeeping missions and is a heavy investor in Sudan's oil industry, has 20 surplus helicopters available, it said.

The 36-page report said helicopters could have saved lives during a July 8 ambush of UNAMID which killed seven of the force and seriously wounded 19 others.

The report called "Grounded: the International Community's Betrayal of UNAMID," was researched by aviation expert Thomas Washington and endorsed

by 30 rights groups and think tanks.

UNSC breaks deadlock over Darfur peacekeeping resolution

(Sudan Tribune) – The UN Security Council (UNSC) managed to resolve a disagreement over a resolution aimed at extending the mandate of the UN-African Union (AU) joint force in Darfur (UNAMID).

Libya and South Africa lobbied other UNSC members to insert a paragraph in the resolution deciding to defer the indictment of the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Initially Libya wanted the UNAMID resolution to incorporate a promise to consider invoking Article 16 of the ICC Statue regarding the authority of the UNSC to suspend its work on a case.

However during the course of the week the Libyans appeared to have secured stronger support for a UNSC in favor of taking action on the ICC issue concurrently with the UNAMID mandate extension which expires tomorrow.

The supporters of the Libyan proposal included China, Russia, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Vietnam and Indonesia, a UN diplomat told Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

The French took the lead in resisting the proposed amendment to the British sponsored resolution on UNAMID. The proponents of ICC deferral lacked the required 9 votes to make the amendment go through assuming none of the permanent UNSC members use the veto.

On the other hand Western UNSC members faced the dilemma of adopting a

resolution on extending a UN peacekeeping mission without unanimity.

Today Reuters reported that the UNSC agreed to include wording that echoes AU concerns that ICC moves to indict Al-Bashir for war crimes could derail the fragile Darfur peace process.

Sudan's UN Ambassador Abdel-Mahmoud Abdel-Haleem told Reuters it was an "acceptable" text for Khartoum.

However the wording appears to be more of a symbolic victory for Libya & South Africa. The resolution does not provide a timeframe for the UNSC to discuss suspending the indictment.

Moreover adopting such a resolution in the future does not appear to have the required 9 votes or the support of all veto wielding members including France & UK.

There also appears to be a legal hurdle facing an Article 16 resolution.

This week the French-Libyan born counsel Dr. Hadi Shalluf, who was the ICC appointed defense counsel for Darfur case last year, told Sudan Tribune that the UNSC can only defer the entire Darfur case and not against specific individuals.

"There is no such thing as UNSC picking who the ICC can prosecute in a case" Shalluf said.

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

Some Western countries have hinted that for the UNSC to consider deferring Al-Bashir's indictment they must cooperate with the ICC and hand over Haroun and Kushayb.

Egypt, Uganda agree more time needed for Sudan's Bashir

(Sudan Tribune) – Egypt and Uganda on Wednesday said Possible charges against Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir should be delayed and he should be given time to improve the security situation in Darfur.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni supported, in a meeting they held today in Kampala, the African Union's position that Bashir be given time to implement a ceasefire in the southern Sudan region of Darfur, Ugandan Minister Omara Atubo said.

Both the African Union and the Arab League have asked the UN Security Council to delay a decision by the International Criminal Court on whether to arrest Bashir.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was in a one day state visit to Uganda to boost ties with the East African country and to discuss charges from the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir.

The Egyptian president offered a donation of 18 million dollars (11.5 million Euros) to the Ugandan government to combat the growth of water hyacinths in the Nile and Lake Victoria.

SUDAN: Hope for Abyei's displaced as troops move out

(IRIN) - The withdrawal of national army troops from Sudan's oil-rich Abyei region should ease weeks of tension and pave the way for the return of thousands of people displaced by recent fighting in the

area, observers said.

"Those people have now withdrawn," Southern Sudan Army spokesman Major General Daniel Parnyang said. "We got some information yesterday [29 July] that the troops they left behind were leaving, but we are still trying to establish how far they have gone [from Abyei]."

Southern Sudan retains an independent military, according to the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), while Khartoum controls national forces deployed in Northern Sudan. Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), comprising national and southern forces, were set up as part of the CPA for certain duties and locations.

Abyei, situated where the north and south meet, has a special status in the CPA, but the definition of its borders and administration has stalled and the area has become a flashpoint in the implementation of the complex accord.

Khartoum troops clashed with southern forces in Abyei in May, displacing an estimated 90,000 people. Abyei town was razed to the ground.

Joint leadership plan

A roadmap agreed on 8 June indicated that the two sides would withdraw their forces and allow for the deployment of joint military and police forces. They would also agree on a joint leadership for the area.

Under the agreement, joint integrated units of about 300 from each side were to be deployed within 10 days to replace the two armies, which were to have moved out by 30 June.

Sources in Juba said the South had

completed the withdrawal of its SPLA forces from Abyei, and sent a contingent to form the JIU, but alleged the North had until 28 July kept a battalion in the area.

The UN Security Council in June called for an investigation into the clashes, as well as requesting a probe into the role of peacekeepers deployed to the area.

Lack of confidence

The Abyei displaced are staying away, unsure whether war could break out again. They also expressed a lack of confidence in the ability of UN peacekeepers to stop a recurrence of fighting, according to a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"Almost the entire population of Abyei fled," a new HRW report, *Abandoning Abyei, Destruction and Displacement*, May 2008, stated. "In mid-July, they were still living in temporary shacks or crowded into homes with other families. Many told [HRW] they are unwilling to return until the Khartoum government fully withdraws its SAF [Sudanese Armed Forces] military forces from the town."

"It needs time," Parnyang told IRIN in Juba on 29 July. "All this time, the situation has been very tense. People have been talking about the fear that fighting could break out again. They were waiting for tensions to calm down before they started going back to Abyei."