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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

SPLM accuses SRSG of using UN name to give “misleading information”

Akhir Lahza reports SPLM has accused SRSG Ashraf Qazi of using UN name to give “misleading information” about victims of tribal violence in Southern Sudan. The SPLM’s statement came in the backdrop of the SRSG’s statement that the death rate in southern Sudan from violent conflict has been higher than in Darfur. The National Assembly Deputy Speaker and SPLM leading figure Atem Garang told the paper that Qazi’s statement about the conflict in the south “is inaccurate”. He called on the UN to present a detailed and accurate report containing number of the victims, their tribes and the source of the information. He wondered about the source of the SRSG’s information.

DSRSG Haq meets State Minister, HAC Commissioner

Akhbar Al Youm reports DSRSG and HC Ameera Haq held two separate meetings yesterday with the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani and HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman. The meeting focused on the humanitarian situation in Darfur and southern Sudan. Haq pledged transparency in the humanitarian area and congratulated the Minister on taking over the humanitarian dossier.

Sima Samar to meet head of prosecution today

Local dailies report the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Sima Samar will meet the head of general prosecution Babikir Abdul Latif today for discussion on the legal measures followed in the case of attack on Omdurman.

Meanwhile, **Al-Intibaha** reports the National Assembly is determined to coordinate with the relevant institutions in the government to request the next meeting of the UNHRC to terminate Sima Samar’s mandate.

Taha, Machar to meet today

Al-Raed reports the NCP-SPLM Higher Executive Committee is to hold a meeting today as part of continued consultations on the CPA pending issues especially the popular consultation laws and the South Sudan referendum law.

Government says ICC seeking to influence African countries

Local dailies report MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has described the ICC President’s tour in some African countries as “a desperate attempt to influence the countries that supported Sudan against the ICC”

Sudan Tribune website 2/6/09 reported that the Sudanese government downplayed a tour by the president of the ICC in Africa describing it as a “desperate” attempt to rally its government against Khartoum.

The Korean ICC chief Sang-Hyun Song is traveling to Tanzania, Lesotho and Botswana this week to discuss cooperation as well as legal issues relating to the implementation of the Rome Statute into the domestic legislation of these countries.

The visit comes as the African ICC members are scheduled to meet next week to discuss withdrawing from the court as a form of protest to the arrest warrant issued against Sudanese

president Omer Al-Bashir.

The Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said that the ICC president's tour comes as African countries support of his country became clear and accused him of trying to split the continent's solidarity.

It is not clear if African nations will actually agree to withdraw from the court. Some treaties between these countries and the EU stipulates being members of the ICC to receive financial aid.

Al-Sadiq also said that his government has coordinated with China and Russia to circumvent the semi-annual report by the ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to the UN Security Council (UNSC) next Friday.

ICC looking at child soldier issue in Darfur – ICC Prosecutor

Reuters 2/6/09 - The ICC chief prosecutor said yesterday that he was looking closely at charges child soldiers have been used by militias in Sudan's conflict-torn western Darfur region.

Last December UNICEF said that up to 6,000 child soldiers, some as young as 11, have been recruited by rebels and government forces in Darfur.

"We are monitoring the child soldier crimes," ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told **Reuters** in an interview. "That's a big deal and it's possible that parties to the (Darfur) conflict use child soldiers."

Moreno-Ocampo said he had not yet decided whether to press for further indictments in Darfur related to allegations of child soldier recruitment. He is currently seeking the prosecution of six Sudanese men for crimes in Darfur, including President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

"Before we do any new case I will inform the Security Council in advance of what are my plans," he said.

The prosecutor said he was also monitoring the spillover of the conflict in Sudan's neighbor Chad and the treatment of people at refugee camps in Darfur.

UNICEF has said it has evidence that all of Darfur's main rebel groups used children, including the powerful JEM and the faction of the Sudan Liberation Army led by Abdel Wahed Mohamed Ahmed al-Nur.

The U.N. agency estimates that there are a total of 8,000 child soldiers in Sudan, 6,000 in Darfur and the rest in southern Sudan -- which ended a two-decade civil war with the north in 2005 -- and the east of the country, the site of a low-level insurgency against Khartoum.

NISS supports Al-Bashir – Gosh

Addressing a graduation ceremony of the National Intelligence and Security Services' elements in Khartoum yesterday, Gen. Salah Gosh affirmed NISS' full support for President Al-Bashir, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. The ceremony was held to mark the graduation of NISS third batch from the National Defence Academy. The Academy awarded honorary doctorates to President Al-Bashir and Gen. Salah Gosh.

Presidential Adviser to lead NCP delegation to US

Presidential Advisor Ghazi Salah Al-Din will lead NCP delegation to take part in a CPA-support meeting proposed by the US Administration, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. Director of America Ambassador Nasr el Din told **SMC** that Ghazi would also hold consultations with the US envoy to Sudan Scott Gration on Darfur.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, the US Administration informed Khartoum that the CPA-support forum will be held on 23 June and that a 3-member delegation each from the SPLM and NCP will take part. The forum will be addressed by the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and will discuss the CPA pending issues. Sources said the US Administration's invitees would include IGAD and its Partners.

NCP member in Joint Political Committee detained in the south

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports GoSS authorities have detained the representative of the NCP-SPLM Joint Political Committee Muntasir Ibrahim. Sources said SPLA intelligence detained Ibrahim while he was shopping in Juba and was taken to an unknown destination. Ibrahim is in the south on an official mission to follow up the issues and entitlement of the northern traders in southern Sudan with Dr. Riek Machar. An official of the Presidency has called on GoSS to immediately free Ibrahim since he is on an official mission.

FM calls on Assembly Speaker to be neutral

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the National Assembly hinted measures against FM Deng Alor who absented himself from yesterday's session where he was supposed to present a report on Sudan's foreign policy. The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir said Alor was in Khartoum but failed to attend. The Assembly decided to hear the report on 14 June. "If he again absents himself, an action will be taken against him," Tahir said. "The Parliament has been waiting for a month to hear Alor's report. He asked the State Minister Al-Samani Al-Waseela to present the report which is unacceptable," he said, adding Alor has not attended any parliament meeting during the current session.

Meanwhile, Alor has called on the Speaker Al-Tahir to observe neutrality. Alor wondered why the Speaker is selective in his criticisms, pointing out that the Defence Minister twice had failed to appear before the Parliament.

According to **Akhbar Al-Youm**, Al-Tahir said Alor attended only one parliament meeting in the previous session and absented himself from all meetings of the current session. Sources said the FM's absence could plunge the two partners into new differences.

Darfur refugees in Chad to receive IDs under UN-backed scheme

UN News Centre 2/6/09 – Some 110,000 Sudanese refugees over the age of 18 in eastern Chad will receive identity cards under a new programme launched with the support of the UNHCR.

"The ID cards are the equivalent of a 'refugee passport' allowing free movement within the host country and providing access to some basic services in line with the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention," agency spokesperson Ron Redmond told reporters in Geneva.

The agency distributed the first 10 ID cards, which are printed by UNHCR and issued by the Chadian Government, in a symbolic ceremony on Monday in Gaga refugee camp, near Abéché.

"We plan to distribute all 110,000 ID cards by the end of this year, provided that the verification

process is not interrupted again," Mr. Redmond said. "Since the latest Chadian rebel incursion on 4 May, our regular daily access to refugee camps is still problematic due to security restrictions."

Meanwhile, UNCHR said that refugees from CAR continue to arrive in small groups in the village of Daha, in south-eastern Chad's Salamat region, as well as in the vicinity of Danamadji in southern Chad.

Some 17,000 CAR refugees – who fled fearing fresh clashes between the Government and rebels – found shelter in six spontaneous sites which sprung up in Daha and Massambagne villages since mid-January, Mr. Redmond reported.

"In southern Chad, we now care for 73,000 refugees hosted in five refugee camps and six spontaneous sites," he said, adding that UNHCR teams in this part of Chad are providing protection and emergency assistance. It is also distributing shelter material and household items to all newly arrived families – mostly women and small children.

"Together with our partner agencies we secured refugee access to education and clean water and built latrines, and we are pre-positioning food-rations sufficient for six months. As of mid-June when the rainy season will start, the CAR refugees in south-eastern Chad will be basically cut off from assistance as it will be physically impossible to reach them," said Mr. Redmond.

Sudan aircraft bomb settlement near Chad – rebels

Reuters 2/6/09 - Sudanese aircraft bombed a town in northwest Darfur yesterday, killing two people and destroying crucial infrastructure, JEM spokesman said.

"There has been continuous bombardment of warplanes from the Sudan government on Furawiya town. They have specifically targeted water wells," JEM's Suleiman Sandal told **Reuters** by satellite phone. "Two people have been killed and 15 injured."

A spokesman from Sudan's army was not immediately able to comment on the JEM claims.

Furawiya settlement is around 240 km (150 miles) north of West Darfur's state capital of Geneina and 70 km (43 miles) from Sudan's border with Chad.

Sandal said JEM mobile units were near Furawiya but had not been damaged by the air attacks. He added that Furawiya's market place had been destroyed by "Janjaweed", a term used to describe Arab militiamen supported by Khartoum, and that 70 sheep had been killed in the bombing.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 2/6/09 reported Sudanese warplanes hit Darfur rebels inside the Chadian territory after evacuating a location near the joint border last week, a report published by a Chadian website said yesterday.

Chadactuel.com, a pro-opposition website reported yesterday that the Sudanese army carried out air strikes against JEM fighters who were returning to a Darfur rebels' base inside Chad after an attack on government garrison in Um Baru.

"On Saturday 30 May, the Sudanese air force bombed the towns of Bahai and Karyare, destroying a column of the survivors who tried to return Amdjeres, (a Chadian location near the border where JEM troops are allegedly based there). In addition to the Sudanese rebels, the bombing resulted in the deaths of several Chadian civilians and livestock," said the report.

The website said the Chadian rebels took part in the attack against the Darfur rebels. It further said the Sudanese warplanes bombed the Sudanese refugees who fled the fighting in Um Baru.

British envoy discusses Sudan peace process

Sudan Tribune website 2/6/09 — UK special envoy to Sudan Michael O'Neill yesterday urged Darfur rebel groups to take part in the Doha process to end the six year Darfur conflict.

O'Neill, who had participated in a meeting in Doha for the permanent members of the UN Security Council about the Darfur peace process, met yesterday with Sudanese presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Eddin Attabani, who was recently appointed as top negotiator for Darfur peace talks.

After his meeting with Attabani, O'Neill stressed his country's full support for the ongoing negotiations between the government and JEM, and called on other rebels to join the Doha process.

Regarding the British position on the ICC arrest warrants against Sudanese officials and President Omer Al-Bashir in particular, O'Neill, said his country supports the efforts of the Elders of the African Union, led by the former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, noting that it can bring fresh ideas to help in resolving the issue.

However, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports Michael O'Neil reiterated his country's support to the ICC, saying it is an independent body.

We are in contact with armed groups in Darfur - Nafie

Miraya FM 2/6/09 – Presidential Assistant, Nafie Ali Nafie, has said that the Sudanese government is contacting some of the armed groups in Darfur to convince them to drop their weapons and proceed with the peace process.

After meeting the Chinese Envoy to Sudan Liu Giujin in Khartoum on Monday, Dr. Nafie said that the government is working on repatriating the displaced people to their regions, adding that they intend to conduct elections on the scheduled date.

Troops deployed to prevent Misseriya-Rizeigat clash

Al-Ayyam reports the joint security committee between Southern Kordofan and South Darfur states has decided to continue deploying troops along the border to prevent clashes between two tribes. South Darfur governor Ali Mahmoud said the security situation in the area is calm, adding the Rizeigat have withdrawn 25 km westward and the Messeriya have pulled back 25 km eastward.

Mysterious death of a western diplomat in Khartoum

Al-Ahdath reports the charge d'Affaires of a western embassy, 60, yesterday died mysteriously in a hospital in Khartoum. According to investigations, the diplomat was a cardiac patient and his health became critical after taking a Viagra pill.

Commentary: Genocide step

The New Republic

by the Editors

Posted Wednesday, June 03, 2009

Back in 2007, then-candidate Barack Obama minced no words when it came to Sudan. "When you see genocide, whether it's in Rwanda or Bosnia or in Darfur, that's a stain on all of us," he said. "That's a stain on our souls." Obama is now president, and Darfur is still a mess. What is taking place there today is not simple to describe. People are no longer being killed at the alarming rate of 2003 and 2004. Yet the region continues to attract the world's attention because two million people remain housed in camps where they live on the brink of disease and starvation, with little hope of returning home in the near future. In Germany, Cambodia, and Rwanda, genocides came to a halt when *genocidaires* were chased from power. But, in Sudan, while the killing has slowed dramatically, those who perpetrated the massacres remain in control of the country, able to toy with the fate of survivors in the cruelest possible manner. Sudan's leaders continue to impede a fair peace settlement, most recently by obstructing Darfuri political representatives from attending peace talks in Addis Ababa. And, in the wake of the indictment of Sudanese President Omar Bashir by the International Criminal Court, the government expelled numerous international aid groups, making the already precarious existence of displaced Darfuris that much worse. Call this situation what you want--the awful aftermath of an unresolved genocide; the second, less violent phase of a bid by Khartoum to punish ethnic groups that supported the rebellion launched in 2003--but, whatever you label Darfur in 2009, it is still a terrible catastrophe.

Since Obama is a pragmatist--and pragmatism is, by definition, what works--we should judge his policies in this area by a single standard: Are they accomplishing the goal of ending Darfur's suffering? We are sad to say that the initial signs have not been encouraging. In fact, as Obama supporters, we are extraordinarily disappointed.

The challenges are twofold. How to get the aid groups back in? And how to push toward a settlement that allows Darfuris to begin returning home--and insulates them from the whims of Khartoum by granting them physical security and some measure of political autonomy? These are urgent matters. Yet Darfur has not seemed to be a priority for the new administration. Even though the situation has grown direr with the expulsion of the aid groups, Obama has expended few public words on the subject. Maybe he is working furiously behind the scenes to get the aid groups back into the region, but, if that is the case, then he has failed badly, since Sudan is more or less standing its ground. (In a typically obnoxious move, Khartoum has agreed to let in other aid groups, just not the ones that were kicked out in the first place. But, since those kicked out were among the largest and most capable in the world, this is, quite obviously, an unacceptable solution.)

But it is not just the seeming absence of focus on Darfur that troubles us. What little indication we have of the administration's plans has been troubling as well. The Washington Post recently quoted a Darfur activist who had met with Obama's Sudan envoy, Scott Gration, three times. The activist described Gration's approach as follows: "He thinks that to keep banging on Khartoum is not the right way. He said he wants to build rapport with Khartoum." If this is truly going to be the administration's strategy, then it is deeply wrongheaded. Sudan's leaders are willing to do whatever it takes to stay in power. For decades, they have not hesitated to slaughter huge numbers of their own people (first in southern Sudan, later in Darfur) in order to preserve their rule. But, operating under the same logic of survival by any means necessary, they have also proved willing to play ball with the West when--as after September 11--they felt that they simply had no choice. Which suggests that, if there is to be relief for the people of

Darfur--if the aid groups are to be readmitted and the peace process is to move forward--Khartoum will have to feel pressure from the United States? This means diplomatic pressure, tougher multilateral sanctions, and the credible threat of military force. As the anti-genocide activists at Save Darfur, the Enough Project, and the Genocide Intervention Network recently wrote, "[T]he Sudanese government responds much more directly to pressures than they do to incentives."

Not surprisingly, alarm is growing among many liberals about this administration's approach to Darfur. Everyone from a relative dove like Nicholas Kristof to a relative hawk like (TNR contributor) Eric Reeves has expressed concern over the trajectory of Obama's Sudan policy. Count us among them. We hope that Obama will reverse course on Darfur. Meanwhile, the stain on our souls only grows.

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