

8 June 2009

www.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- NCP leader anticipates conflict over secession (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Mbeki-led AU Panel to visit Khartoum (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Government rejects international monitoring of Darfur courts (**Al-Sudani**)
- Sudan faces threat to its stability – Egypt (**Ajrash Al-Hurriah**)
- SC division a defeat for Ocampo – VP (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Sudanese president sacks press secretary over interview (**ST**)
- SPLM held extraordinary meeting in Juba (**Akhbar Al Youm**)
- NCP denies link to SPLM-DC (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Abyei Administrator condemns education officer killing (**Akhbar Al Youm**)
- Bashir meets Museveni (**Radio Omdurman**)
- Sudan oil revenue jumps 75% in April (**ST**)
- UN-backed 'Smile Darfur' campaign wraps up with call to end violence (**ST**)
- JEM says it won't sign Ceasefire agreement at present (**Miraya**)
- Pigs have not been eliminated – security source (**Al-Sudani**)
- EU to participate in CPA conference in Washington (**Ray Al-Shaab**)
- Sudan criticizes Obama "genocide" labeling of Darfur (**ST**)
- Scores killed and wounded in SPLA assault on civilians in Darfur (**Al-Raed**)
- Rumbek radio station off-air due to technical problem (**ST**)

**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.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

# Highlights

---

## **NCP leader anticipates conflict over secession**

NCP leading figure Al-Dirdiry Mohamed Ahmed who is also in charge of Abyei dossier has affirmed the likelihood of secession of southern Sudan, but warned that such step could plunge the two partners into a fierce border confrontation, ***Al-Ahdath*** reports. He anticipated explosion of the situation between the north and south if secession takes place. He said separation of the southern Sudan would create ethnic hatred and lead to collapse of the southern Sudan state. Al-Dirdiry made the remarks yesterday at a symposium on unity and secession organized by ***Al-Akhbar*** newspaper. He said a powerful group within SPLM is pushing for separation to create a new country to avoid confrontation with the international community and imposition of sanctions over the ICC.

Meanwhile, SPLM DSG Yassir Arman described the issue of unity and separation as “dangerous”, saying the NCP does not believe in partnership.

## **Mbeki-led AU Panel to visit Khartoum**

***Al-Ahdath*** reports Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail as saying that the AU Panel on Darfur led by the former South African President Thabo Mbeki would visit Khartoum by mid June for consultations on the ICC before submitting its report.

## **Government rejects international monitoring of Darfur crimes courts**

***Al-Sudani*** reports the Arab League SG Amr Musa has called for amendment of the Sudanese criminal code to incorporate the Rome Statute. Musa, speaking to ***Al-Safwa TV*** channel late Saturday, stressed the need to try criminals in presence of the UN, the Arab League and the AU so that the ICC crisis is resolved in a manner that would preserve Sudan’s sovereignty and dignity and at the same time realize justice.

However, MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq reacted saying “there is no way for incorporation of the Rome Statute in the Sudanese judiciary”. Al-Sadiq told reporters yesterday that there was coordination between Khartoum and Cairo on a range of issues including the ICC.

## **Sudan faces threat to its stability – Egypt**

***Ajras Al-Hurriah*** reports while Egypt informed US about threats to Sudan’s stability, the NCP expressed hope that the proposed CPA-support conference scheduled for 23 June in Washington would be an opportunity for dialogue between the two Partners to overcome their differences over census results, laws and Abyei. According to ***Al-Sahafa***, government revealed ongoing consultations and coordination between Khartoum and Cairo on the ICC and Darfur. Meanwhile, Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat will lead Sudan’s delegation to Addis today to participate in meeting of the African countries signatories to the Rome Statute.

On the other hand, SPLM leading figure and FM Deng Alor has warned against attempts by the NCP to reduce the SPLM’s share in power on the grounds that the census results estimated southerners at 8 million which is 21% of the Sudan’s total population. As per the CPA, the SPLM share in power is 28%. Alor made the remarks in reaction to an NCP official’s call for reduction of the SPLM’s share in power based on the census results.

## **SC division a defeat for Ocampo – VP**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports VP Taha as saying that he was hopeful of a country free of divisions, hostilities, conflicts and tribalism. Taha, addressing a rally in northern Kordofan State yesterday, reiterated Sudan's rejection of the ICC, saying the outcome of the SC meeting was a defeat for the ICC Prosecutor Ocampo.

## **Sudanese president sacks press secretary over interview**

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/609 – The Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir has fired his press adviser after an interview attributed to him was published without his knowledge, a news report said.

The London based **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** quoting “knowledgeable sources” said that Bashir read an interview with him published in **Al-Hurra** newspaper upon his return from Libya last month.

Al-Bashir reportedly got upset and asked presidential affairs minister Bakri Hassan Saleh to file a complaint against **Al-Hurra** since he has no recollection of being interviewed by the newspaper and has no knowledge of it.

Saleh conducted an investigation and found out that Bashir's press secretary Mahjoub Badri received question from the newspaper and answered it himself without showing it to the president as in line with the customary procedure in this case.

Bashir then told Saleh that he does not want to deal with his press secretary in this position after today, the newspaper said.

However Badri told **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** that he is on vacation and has not received any notification on his status but confirmed that another replacement has been appointed for him.

Badri who held the position since 2003, accused “enemies of success” of standing behind the incident and defended his record in his position.

“I am a soldier ready for orders...If the president orders to be a janitor at his door I will do it....I am not looking for positions” he said.

The newspaper said that publishing interviews of the president goes through a rigorous process in coordination with the newspaper and is subject to editing before it is finally authorized for publication.

Badri was a subject of controversy in Turkey last year when he entered Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's mausoleum with Bashir wearing a rain hood in a violation of the protocol.

However, Badri later apologized saying he did not intend to show any disrespect.

## **SPLM held extraordinary meeting in Juba**

**Akhbar Al Youm** reports SPLM leaders held an extraordinary meeting yesterday in Juba chaired by FVP and GoSS President Kiir for discussion on the establishment of the SPLM-DC by Lam Akol. SPLM DSG Ann Itto said SPLM position was that Lam Akol enjoys the democratic right to found a political party but he should not use SPLM name. She said a committee was set up to formulate a detailed statement on the matter.

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/6/09 reported FM Deng Alor as saying that "Akol is an unstable character. He joined six parties since 1985. There is nothing new in what he said. He was a leading figure in SPLM. If he was a truly democratic figure, why did not pose his views inside the party organs?" "Lam Akol is undemocratic and wants to be the number one [in SPLM]" he added.

He was described by many within the SPLM as the "black sheep" in his views that appeared more aligned with the NCP.

### **NCP denies link to SPLM-DC**

Presidential Advisor and NCP Foreign Relations Secretary Mustafa Osman Ismail said the NCP had no connection with Lam Akol-led SPLM-DC, **Al-Ahdath** reports. He called on the SPLM to respect "democratic game" in the south and the north rather than keep complaining. "If Akol's defection does not affect SPLM unity, why you are crying," he wondered.

### **Abyei Administrator condemns killing of an education officer**

**Akhbar Al Youm** reports Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahma Al-Nur Abdul Rahmam has condemned the incident of murder of the Abyei education Director and Imam of mosque Sheikh Ibrahim Deng Majok by unknown persons. He said the incident could incite sedition at a delicate and critical juncture in the area, saying investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, **Al-Ayyam** reports Rahma Al-Nur as saying that 50 to 65% of the Abyei roadmap has been implemented; adding that SAF and SPLM withdrawal from the area has created a sense of security among the civilians.

### **Bashir meets Museveni**

**Radio Omdurman** broadcasts Presidency Director of Political Affairs Ambassador Osman Nafie as saying that President Al-Bashir yesterday met with his Ugandan counterpart Museveni on the sidelines of COMESA summit meeting in Zimbabwe. Museveni invited President Al-Bashir to visit Uganda.

Meanwhile, **AFP** reports Sudan's President al-Bashir today denounced moves to prosecute him for war crimes as "infringement" on his country's sovereignty, at a trade summit in Zimbabwe.

"Such a move ushers a new era of domination and infringement upon the independence and sovereignty of Sudan," he told COMESA summit in the Zimbabwean resort town of Victoria Falls. He called the charges a "falsity" aimed at breaking apart his country.

"Powers hostile to Sudan, sparing no effort to undermine the security and stability of the country, have now come up with a new falsity -- the move by the ICC against the president of the Sudan," he said.

"It is an action aiming at isolating Sudan from its regional sphere as a prelude to fragment the country," he added.

### **Sudan oil revenue jumps 75% in April**

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/6/09 – Sudan's oil revenue improved substantially from March in what appears to be a result of improvement in crude prices worldwide.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Hafez Ata Al-Mannan was quoted by **SUNA** as saying that total oil revenue for April was \$158.76 compared to \$90 in

March.

The figures are still far from the record revenue reached in November of \$347.79 and \$608 million in October.

Al-Mannan said that GoSS share in oil revenues for April was \$51.60 million compared to \$34.98 million in March, while its share of locally used oil was \$30.59 million compared to \$19.52 million in March.

He further stated that the shares of the oil producing states of Unity, the Upper Nile and Southern Kordofan were \$3.2 million, \$617,000 and \$2.23 million dollars respectively. The share of Abyei area in the oil revenues for May was \$1.42 million dollars.

### **UN-backed “Smile Darfur” campaign wraps up**

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/6/09 – The week-long “Smile Darfur” outreach scheme, backed by UNAMID in the war-torn Sudanese region, has wrapped up with a call for peace and an end to the violence.

At yesterday’s closing ceremony for “Ibatsim [Smile] Darfur,” Henry Anyihodo, DJSR, urged Darfurians, as well as all Sudanese, to “join your hands and hearts together to work for the peace, development and prosperity of your land.”

He also emphasized that UNAMID will support efforts, in line with the Mission’s mandate, to end the suffering of the people of Darfur, where some 300,000 people have been killed and another 2.7 million forced from their homes in more than five years of fighting, pitting rebels against Government forces and allied Janjaweed militiamen.

Mr. Anyihodo also underscored that although the international community would do as much as it could, ultimately, only Darfurians can ensure the peace process’ success.

The campaign featured art exhibitions, music performances, poetry recitals and drama performances, as well as a football match yesterday in El Fasher between two teams from the nearby Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

“Smile Darfur” was part of the celebrations to mark this year’s International Day of Peacekeepers on 29 May, the date in 1948 when the first UN peacekeeping mission, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine.

### **JEM says it won't sign Ceasefire agreement at present**

**Miraya FM** 8/6/09 JEM Spokesperson, Ahmed Hussien, said that his movement would not sign a Ceasefire agreement with the government, during the Doha talks in Qatar. Hussein told **Miraya FM** that his movement was studying the possibility of signing a “cease-hostility agreement” only, and then move on to other issues. He further reiterated his demands of release of their prisoners by the government.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Embassy Information Attaché in Qatar, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Al Shosh, has said that the government delegation views the release of JEM prisoners and signing a ceasefire agreement as something that could take place simultaneously.

## **Pigs have not been eliminated – security source**

**Al-Sudani** reports a high level security source has warned of the consequences of negligence of the authorities' order for the elimination of pigs in Khartoum State which have been estimated at 2120 pigs located in ten breeding farms in Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum north. According to **Al-Watan**, authorities have earlier ordered the farm owners to get rid of their pigs by 3 May but no action has been taken. Civilians are complaining that the presence of these farms constitute threat to their health especially that swine flu is reported in neighbouring countries.

## **EU to participate in CPA conference in Washington**

**Ray Al-Shaab** announced that it would participate in the CPA conference in Washington. EU representative in Sudan Ambassador Torben Brylle met with FM Deng Alor yesterday for discussion on the preparations for the conference. The meeting also discussed Sudan-Chad relations.

## **Sudan criticizes Obama “genocide” labeling of Darfur**

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/6/09 – The Sudanese government yesterday criticized US President Barack Obama describing Darfur conflict as genocide.

The Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said that the labeling “is out of context” and added that it is politically motivated.

Al-Sadiq said that the US special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration did not use the term genocide during his recent visits to Khartoum.

Al-Sadiq said that even the judges at the ICC dropped the genocide charges against Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir last March.

## **Scores killed and wounded in SPLA assault on civilians in Darfur**

**Al-Raed** reports a group of SPLA elements attacked civilians north of Tumsah area located at the border between South Darfur and north Bahr el Ghazal resulting in killing and wounding scores of civilians. South Darfur Assembly member Ibrahim Masar told reporters that SPLA is not abiding by the 1956 border. He said four Riseigat were killed and tens injured in the assault.

## **Rumbek radio station off-air due to technical problem**

**Sudan Tribune website** 7/6/09 - The Lakes state government-owned Radio Rumbek FM-98 has been off-air since June 1 and may remain so for 45 days or more, allegedly due to a technical problem with the transmitter.

Radio director Mr. James Magok Chilim affirmed last week that "The problem is going to be solved in about 45 days and above."