



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report 31.3.2008

(By Public Information Office)

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# Highlights

## UN/ Agencies

### [Secretary General in condemnation of anti-Islam film: no justification for hate speech or incitement \(Al-Ayyam\)](#)

(Al-Ayyam) I condemn, in the strongest terms, the airing of Geert Wilders' offensively anti-Islamic film. There is no justification for hate speech or incitement to violence. The right of free expression is not at stake here. I acknowledge the efforts of the Government of the Netherlands to stop the broadcast of this film, and appeal for calm to those understandably offended by it. Freedom must always be accompanied by social responsibility.

The United Nations is the centre of the world's efforts to advance mutual respect, understanding and dialogue. We must also recognize that the real fault line is not between Muslim and Western societies, as some would have us believe, but between small minorities of extremists on different sides with a vested interest in stirring hostility and conflict.

### [Darfur attacks continue against UN personnel](#)

(Sudan Tribune) The attacks against aid agency workers in western Sudan reached new levels of violence, putting in danger vital relief operations in the region of Darfur, Ameerah Haq, Humanitarian Resident Representative of the United Nations Organization in Sudan declared yesterday.

In a statement made in Khartoum and released by her office, Ameerah Haq said that the humanitarian operations in Sudan condemned all acts of violence in Darfur, where rebels have been fighting with government forces and allied militias for five years, since 2003.

On Monday, Mohamed Ali, a driver contracted by the UNWFP, was shot and killed and his assistant seriously wounded by unidentified assailants while traveling on the main route in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur.

The office of Ms Haq said in the statement that the humanitarian community appealed for an end to all the attacks, the immediate release of those who were kidnapped and for holding to account those who attacked aid agency workers in all the country.

Yesterday the representative of WFP in Sudan regretted the latest attacks and warned that the contracted transport agency truck companies and drivers were facing daily acts of violence.

## **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie: Halaib is 100% Sudanese land, we will not fight a war with Egypt (Al-Sahafa)

(Al-Sahafa) The Assistant to the President of the Republic, Dr. Nafe Ali Nafe, announced that Halaib Triangle is "100% Sudanese territory".

However, he has emphasized that the Government of the Sudan would not differ or fight a war with Egypt over Halaib.

Dr. Nafe made the statement while addressing a political symposium at the Red Sea University yesterday. He said elections would be held in Darfur as there was no any obstacles.

Dr. Nafe has lambasted charges that NCP might rig forthcoming elections. "Those who are accusing us of intent to rig elections are losers who suffer internal problems," he added.

### **NCP rejects SPLM administration to Sudan's Abyei**

(ST) March 30, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The National Congress Party (SPLM) denounced the formation of an administration in the disputed Abyei area by its partner in peace saying it constitutes a grave breach of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and demanded its removal.

Due to the refusal of the National Congress Party of President Omer al-Bashir to implement conclusions of Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC), the disputed oil rich area is still without administration since the signing of the CPA in January 2005.

"This act transgresses the authority of the presidency which owns alone the decision to appoint the administration of Abyei under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Interim National Constitution." Said the NCP in a statement issued on Sunday evening.

Last January, the First Vice President and President of the government of southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, appointed Edward Lino as chairman of the SPLM in Abyei. He also charged him with the administration of the area till the formation of its permanent administration.

Lino has started on March 26 to exercise his duties in the disputed region. The NCP statement also said that his appointment was accompanied by the deployment of heavy SPLA forces north of the town of Abyei.

The National Congress said keeping close watch over the "continued attempts of this administration to extend its authority as a fait accompli and impose its influence on national and local institutions located the area."

The Misseriya tribesmen have accused the government of consenting on what they described as Edward Lino's occupation of Abyei and interpreted the government's silence towards what happened as acceptance.

The Paramount Emir of the Misseriya tribesmen, Mukhtar Babo Nimir said on March 28 that they had informed the concerned authorities about what had happened and that they were currently waiting for the stance of the government. He further described what Edward Lino had done as an insult to the Misseriya.

Abyei was one of the reasons of the SPLM withdrawal from the government of national unity in October 2007.

Under the 9 January peace deal between the ruling National Congress party and the SPLA, the district is one of three granted special status during six years of interim autonomy in the south, leading to a referendum on independence.

After reiterating its rejection "in the strongest possible terms" of the SPLM administration the National Congress Party said that dialogue and negotiations are the only way to overcome the current tense situation. It also said that the working group assigned following October crisis made "remarkable progress in endeavor to develop a common vision."

#### CONDITIONS FOR TALKS ON ABYEI ROW

However, the NCP statement set three conditions for the resumption of negotiations on Abyei between the two peace partners:

1- The immediate termination of the SPLM appointed administration and its withdrawal from the disputed area, 2. The redeployment of SPLA troops recently deployed around Abyei to their former positions under the control of the Joint Defence Board; 3. "To stop any unilateral steps that threatens the stability of the area and lead to spoiling the atmosphere of peace and national dialogue."

On November 17, 2007, Sudanese President and leader of the NCP Omer al-Bashir rejected categorically the Abyei Commission Report. While mobilizing the Popular Defense Forces, he said ABC commissioners "should dilute their report and drink it."

In the same time, the Sudanese First Vice President and SPLM leader said "The ABC report should be binding to all parties but the NCP rejected it and is looking for an alternative. This is not acceptable to us and we will stick to the report."

Under the protocol a commission known as the Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) was to "define and demarcate the area of the nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905, referred to herein as Abyei Area".

However, the president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said that the NCP is committed to the Abyei Protocol only with the border of 1905. He further said the government is not concerned with the ABC report and that the latter is of no value to them.

[Sudan racing against time to normalize ties with US](#)

(ST) March 30, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — A Democratic president in the White House is unquestionably Khartoum's worst nightmare. The Sudanese policy makers particularly the National Congress Party (NCP) hardliners fear what they perceive as the most hostile political group in the US. The missile strike by former democratic president Bill Clinton against a Sudanese pharmaceutical factory in 1998 remains more than just a distant memory.

Sudan formed a high-level committee headed by its foreign minister Deng Alor to work on mending ties with the US. Alor paid a visit to Washington early February to ask what Sudan needs to do in order to normalize ties between the two countries. He got the same usual answers; resolve the Darfur crisis and fully implement of the North-South peace agreement.

But something different happened this time following a visit by the US special envoy Richard Williamson to Khartoum during the last week of February. Alor went to tell reporters that his government expects to normalize relations with Washington within six months. Williamson did not counter Alor's bold statements and left it for officials at the State Department in Washington to downplay the prospects.

However, the Los Angeles Times last week confirmed that the US offered to normalize ties with Sudan if it fulfils certain conditions and that Williamson conveyed it to President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir in his last visit but gave no details.

"Right now this is a discussion between the government of Sudan and the government of the United States and it helps no one if we start to negotiate in public," Williamson said. "The bottom-line goal is you have got to alleviate suffering and provide enough security on the ground so that people can return home in Darfur. Short of that, nothing else matters."

Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdel-Mahmood Abdel-Haleem, called it "a strategic shift," made possible by his government's "exemplary" cooperation on terrorism matters.

"Each side is exchanging papers on each aspect," he said. "The biggest reward would be normal relations with the U.S."

Abdel-Haleem's remarks could signal that Washington and Khartoum have stepped up their intelligence cooperation particularly in light of the recent increase in US military activity in Somalia against Al-Qaeda bases. The Sudanese former foreign minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told the Los Angeles Times in 2005 that his government "served as the eyes and ears of the CIA in Somalia, a sanctuary for Islamic militants".

But it will take Sudan more than good counter terrorism cooperation to be friends with the US. In regards to Darfur in particular, the US wants Sudan to facilitate deployment of the UN-AU force stop the military offensive in the region and disarm the Janjaweed militias. But in the last few months Khartoum has done the exact opposite. It kept placing obstacles to the hybrid force, launched a military campaign in Western Darfur which led to massive displacement and recently appointed the Janjaweed leader Musa Hilal to a governmental post.

Moreover, the lifting of sanctions imposed on Sudan may also prove difficult due to a number of factors. Some of the sanctions were part of bill passed by the US Congress such as the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. More importantly there is a political price to be paid by the Bush administration and the Republican Party in an elections year if they take a conciliatory step towards Sudan. The powerful Darfur advocacy groups and the US Congress will be closely watching any move in that direction.

US Professor Eric Reeves, a longtime expert on Sudan affairs echoes the same view.

“So long as the National Islamic Front (National Congress Party) regime retains a stranglehold on Sudanese national wealth and power, there is exceedingly little chance that we will see any significant change in Sudanese behavior before the US presidential elections, or indeed afterwards. Khartoum’s hope that the US will tire of exerting pressure on a genocidal regime ignores the political potency of Darfur advocacy in the US, as well as advocacy for South Sudan” Reeves says.

“Instead of meeting US demands, Khartoum seems more inclined to lurch toward ever more destabilizing and threatening military actions, such as the recent assaults north of el-Geneina in West Darfur and the ratcheting up of tensions in Abyei” he added.

We can compare Sudan’s optimism on US relations to that of North Korea. The latter agreed to relinquish its nuclear program in return for scrapping sanctions and removes its name from terrorism list, and its foreign ministry even went as far as saying that Washington is in the process of completing these two demands. But the US said North Korea needs to more before sanctions are lifted.

But in the meanwhile the US may be taking discreet steps to help its diplomatic engagement with Sudan. The US Treasury appears to have held back on cracking down against violators of Sudan sanctions as they promised almost two months ago. Also the US administration seems to have softened its rhetoric on Sudan particularly in terms of troop deployment to Darfur and shifted the blame to the UN.

In a letter delivered Thursday to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Williamson criticized delays in sending troops to Darfur, and asked the United Nations’ peacekeeping department to be more flexible in its requirements for troops and equipment.

"At this crucial moment, the deployment of new troops as quickly as possible is our best hope to change the course of this tragedy," he wrote in the letter obtained by Los Angeles Times.

Williamson said that it was "pathetic" that only 290 new personnel had arrived in Darfur since January, when the U.N. absorbed 9,000 police officers and soldiers from the African Union force already there. He suggested, among other things, that the U.N. pay for the soldiers’ equipment and food rather than wait for their home countries to provide the supplies.

In the coming Sudan will anxiously await the outcome of their new initiative with the US. It is yet to be seen whether the 6 month timeframe predicted by Alor was a realistic one. The millions of Darfur refugees will also be waiting to see their lives get better after years of misery.

### [Sudanese opposition leader asks Egypt to push for Cairo deal implementation](#)

(ST) March 30, 2008 (CAIRO) — The leader of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) urged Egypt to strengthening the implementation of a peace deal signed in Cairo between Sudanese government and northern opposition forces.

Khartoum government and the opposition National Democratic Alliance, signed "Cairo Agreement" on June 18, 2005. Brokered by Egyptian government, the agreement deals with the democratic transition and to the consolidation of a comprehensive peace process in the whole country.

Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani in a meeting held on Sunday with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Abul Gheit, asked Cairo to convene a meeting between the Sudanese government and the National Democratic Alliance to discuss the implementation of Cairo Agreement.

The chairman of the Sudanese opposition alliance said he stressed on the importance of the Egyptian role to boost the full implementation of the deal.

Al-Mirghani who is the only opposition leader to remain outside the country despite the signing of the deal since three years announced recently his imminent return to Sudan.

A delegation led by one of his sons arrived last week to Khartoum to prepare his arrival to Khartoum.

In Khartoum the ruling National Congress Party stressed that much of progress is achieved in the dialogue with the DUP in order to prepare an agreement to be signed between the two parties following al-Mirghani's return.

Mohamed Mahdi Mandour, the NCP Political Secretary said the joint committee between the two parties approved the draft of the agreement dealing with all the political issue including the democratic transition.

He stressed the NCP participation in the reception in Mirghani as one of the outstanding symbols of the country and said that the leader of the DUP will attend besides the head of the NCP the signing of the agreement between the two parties.

### [Sudan accuses British embassy of abusing diplomatic privileges](#)

(ST) March 30, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese government accused the British embassy in Khartoum of abusing diplomatic privileges.

Sudanese customs authorities said that a TV satellite transmitter was found in the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Arabic TV in Khartoum that was not admitted through regular channels.

Unidentified Sudanese officials told Sudanese newspapers that the transmitter was smuggled in a diplomatic pouch that belongs to the British embassy but provided no details. The officials said that incident is a violation of Geneva Convention for diplomatic immunity.

There was no response from the British embassy on the allegation.

The head of the BBC Arabic TV office in Khartoum was summoned by customs authorities and informed him that the transmitter could have been imported normally and in accordance with Sudanese laws, the daily Al-Hayat newspaper said.

The newspaper said that the transmitter was confiscated and is now a property of the Sudanese government.

The BBC Arabic TV was launched during the second week of March.

#### [Sudan oil revenues for February 08 reach \\$397mln](#)

March 30, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's oil revenues for the month of February 2008 has reached 397.78 million US dollars, the Sudanese ministry of finance and economy said today.

298.26 million dollars were the exports' proceeds and 108.52 million dollars were revenues of the crude oil used by local refineries. The federal government share was 239.30 million dollars whereas Southern Sudan government share was 158 million dollars for February 2008.

These figures are announced during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Determination and Allocation of Oil Revenues between the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) on Sunday.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Hafiz Atta Al-Manan pointed out that direct money transfers to southern Sudan government totaled 162.63 million USD with a surplus of 4.15 million USD to be used to satisfy outstanding obligation for GoSS.

Al-Manan said that share of the oil producing states was 8.12 million USD from which 9.25 million dollars were transferred to those states as follows:- Unity State 3.57 million dollars, Upper Nile State 2.45 million dollars and South Kordufan State 2.45 million dollars.

He further added that the surplus of of the oil producing states will be used to satisfy its outstanding obligation.



## [Pagan Amun: voluntary unity is joint responsibility of government, civil society Organizations \(Sudan Vision\)](#)

(Sudan Vision) Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs, Pagan Amun, considered the honoring of a hundred Sudanese women by civil society organizations as heralding new horizons for the unity of the Sudanese people.

At the occasion held yesterday for honouring a hundred Sudanese women, Amun affirmed that unity of the country can only be accomplished through the united efforts of all the categories of Sudanese society. He further held the issue of building peace and realizing voluntary unity of the people of Sudan as joint responsibility between the government and civil society organizations, stressing that the private sector is expected to play an instrumental role at the present stage.

Amun explained that implementation of peace is a core task of civil society organizations which can be attained when the Sudanese society comes to recognize the role of mothers in families and the community at large. He praised the role played by mothers during the North-South war and in Darfur where they catered for the upbringing and education of their children, undaunted by the harsh conditions and the woes of war and displacement. He then praised Ayat Petroleum Services Company which sponsored the occasion and underscored the role played by civil society organizations.

Dr. Hisham Abu-Shama, representative of Ayat Petroleum Services Company, said his Company has made the initiative because it believed in the vital role of motherhood and women.

On the other hand, the civil society organizations called on the Government of National Unity to avail full opportunity for integrations of roles in the community and expressed appreciation for the Federal Health Minister and Ayat Company for the role played in the voluntary return program in war-affected regions.

## [National Congress issues statement on what happened recently in Abyei town](#)

Khartoum, March 30 (SUNA)- The National Congress said it has followed up what happened on March 26 in Abyei town of a unilateral declaration of forming Abyei Administration by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and what accompanied this declaration of intensive deployment of the forces of the SPLM north of Abyei town. In a statement it issued Sunday, the National Congress added that it also followed up attempts by the said administration to impose its authorities as fait accompli and impose its authorities on the national and local institutions there. The statement expressed the strong rejection of the National Congress to this unilateral act, explaining that the Presidency is the only body that has the right to form the Abyei Administration in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the interim national constitution. The statement said this act represents a stark

violation to the CPA and against the spirit of the partnership and its institutions. The statement pointed out that the two partners agreed when they surpassed the last crisis that the Presidency shall assume the file of Abyei and that the question has remained under continuous deliberations by the Presidency, adding that a work team assigned by the Presidency held a number of sittings and made marked progress towards reaching a common vision. The statement pointed out that this unilateral act affects the security situation which is already tense in the area because of deployment by SPLA of its forces in the transitional zones in violation of the security arrangements protocol. The statement stressed that dialogue is the sole means of solving Abyei issue, calling for immediate end to the administration announced recently and its withdrawal from Abyei town, returning the SPLA forces deployed around the town to their previous sites under the monitoring of the joint military committee and halting any unilateral steps that threaten the stability of the area and spoil the atmosphere of peace and responsible national dialogue.

### [Training Courses for fifth population census counters underway](#)

Khartoum, March 30 (SUNA) - Training sessions for the counters in the Fifth Population Census went underway in north and south Sudan in 820 classes in the north and 300 others in the south with the aim to train them on how to fill the census forms. The Director General of the Central Statistics Bureau, Dr. Yassin Al-Haj Abidin, affirmed in a statement to SUNA that the preparation for Fifth Population Census project is now in its final stage by training the counters on the filling of the short 10-question form and the long 54-question form which is assigned for the nomads and 10% of the population. Dr. Abidin pointed out that April 9th is the deadline for the training courses where maps defining the specified geographical sites would be delivered to each counter so as to know his work site on the ground, before the staging of the population census on April 15.

### **GoSS**

### [Uganda rebel Kony moves to Sudan border to ink peace deal](#)

(ST) March 30, 2008 (JUBA) — Uganda's fugitive rebel commander Joseph Kony is walking to the Sudan-Congo border to sign a final peace deal this week with the Ugandan government, Western diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

South Sudanese officials who have been mediating stop-start talks to end one of Africa's longest wars have said the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader will sign two days ahead of an official ceremony in Juba because he fears arrest.

No one from the Ugandan government could be reached to comment on rebel plans, but it has insisted the elusive Kony, whom no outsiders have seen for months, emerge from hiding in Congo to ink the agreement in person in Juba on April 5.

A diplomatic source at the long-running negotiations in the south Sudanese capital said the LRA boss was expected to sign the document at Ri-Kwangba on the remote border on April 3.

"He is then likely to sneak back into Central African Republic, where he has established a base," the diplomat said.

The final peace deal calls for LRA fighters to disarm within a month. The top representatives of the rebels at the talks said on Sunday that Kony would sign, but the group would not lay down its arms until international arrest warrants were scrapped.

Kony and two of his senior deputies are wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for multiple war crimes including rape, murder and the abduction of children. Fearing arrest, they have never appeared at the Juba talks.

"Kony will not disarm if the ICC has not dropped those indictments, he's sworn on that," said David Nyekorach Matsanga.

The ICC has said its warrants remain active, but the U.N. Security Council could ask them to be put on hold if there was a real chance for peace.

Two decades of war in northern Uganda have killed tens of thousands, uprooted 2 million more and de-stabilized neighbouring parts of south Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In a separate incident, south Sudanese Vice-President Riek Machar said an investigation had been launched after a local politician said Ugandan troops using helicopter gunship killed at least 20 people in a March 4 raid into south Sudan.

"Some cattle were taken and also some citizens were taken across the border," Machar told Reuters. He could not confirm the exact death toll or whether helicopters had been used.

Colonel Paul Lokech, the commander of Ugandan forces across the border from where the attack was said to have taken place, denied the killings but said several Sudanese had been arrested.

"They crossed 52 miles into Uganda with hundreds of cattle and armed with G3 rifles. We rounded them up and disarmed them," he told Reuters by telephone.

"Our gunships did not kill anyone. We've released all 41 suspects along with their cattle, but we withheld their arms. We also cautioned all of them not to cross the border illegally."

#### [Blindness Hits 1.5% in Sudan \(Sudan Vision\)](#)

On behalf of Sudan Government, Federal Health Ministry Undersecretary, Dr. Kamal Abdalgadir, conveyed gratitude to the International Organization for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief for undertaking Cataract disease control project in Africa and selecting Sudan as a model of cooperation with Africa Cataract Project.

Addressing a press conference held yesterday at the Friendship Hall, Khartoum in the attendance of Turkish Ambassador to Khartoum, Abdalgadir announced the completion of studies regarding establishment of 25 Eye-Hospitals in the various Sudanese States out of which 15 will be accomplished during this year. According to him, that comes within the scope of his Ministry strategy that focuses decentralization of medical treatment.

In a press statement at Khartoum Eye-Hospital, National Coordinator to the Sudan Blindness Control Programme, Dr. Kamal Hashim, warned that the 1.5 % blindness cases in Sudan might reach 20% in the absence of Government commitment to securing funds necessary for disease control.

Hashim delivered that statement during the inauguration of the Cataract Free Treatment Programme conducted in coordination with the visiting Turkish Medical Team.

Dr. Hashim ascribed the upward trend in cataract disease cases in Sudan to high temperature, malnutrition along with high blood pressure, diabetes and other infections, announcing that this disease control programme needs some \$10 million per annum.

Beyond that, Hashim affirmed that Jur Blindness has reached 10-20% in Bahr Alghazal and Equatoria States as well as in Eastern Sudan and Sudan-Ethiopia borders, adding that lack of finance for this programme dictates seeking the assistance of the African Cataract Control Project.

In that context, Director to Abdalfadeil Almaz Center of Khartoum Eye-Hospital, remarked that the visiting Turkish Team will monitor the Free Treatment Programme that has started seven month ago and train Sudanese doctors on cataract non-surgical operations which is considered a breakthrough in eye-operations. She further noted that the hospital receives 600-1000 cases daily of which 60% are cataract cases, particularly old patients.

For his part, the Turkish Medical Team Coordinator, Serhart Orakci, revealed that, within the Health Protocol concluded between Sudan and Turkey, his team which has conducted 3,000 operations in Sudan since last September, is planning to run 40,000 operations across the Sudanese States, besides setting up of Free Eye Treatment Tents in Darfur coming June.

Sudan Vision witnessed last Saturday at Khartoum Eye-Hospital, joyful sight recoveries for ten patients that sparked a new hope for them to enjoy a bright life.

## Darfur

### ICC monitoring movements of Darfur war crimes suspect

(ST) March 30, 2008 (THE HAGUE) — The International Criminal Court (ICC) is monitoring the activities of a Darfur war crime suspect within Sudan, a senior court official said.

The prosecutor of the ICC Luis Moreno-Ocampo said in prepared remarks at the twelfth diplomatic briefing that his office is working with unspecified countries to trace the whereabouts of Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs.

“RFA’s on the tracing of Haroun and on his activities within the Sudan have been and will be sent. I urge States Parties to give them their utmost attention and to contact my Office should they have questions,” Ocampo said.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan’s Darfur region in early May.

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also know as Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) circulated a notice for the arrest of both suspects in mid-2007.

Ocampo said that he is pushing world countries to assist in the arrest of the Darfur war crime suspects including those who are not members of the court.

“Our principal objective is to make sure that the issue of enforcement of the arrest warrants is not put off the agenda of relevant international meetings” he said.

The prosecutor also urged countries to press Sudan on extraditing the suspects to the ICC. He mentioned that only one country did that so far but did not name it.

The Argentinean born prosecutor has been pressing countries publicly and behind the scenes to press Sudan on the issue of handing over the suspects but with little success.

He made a rare criticism of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon last October for neglecting the issue of justice in his monthly reports on Sudan.

“Justice was not mentioned in the UNSG subsequent reports on Darfur where the UN secretariat developed a three prong approach with a humanitarian, political and security components only” Ocampo said last year.

The ICC official said he travelled to Qatar, Egypt including a meeting with the Arab League, Jordan and that he plans a trip to Indonesia, a UN Security Council member, and Saudi Arabia shortly.

It is not clear why Ocampo plans to visit Saudi Arabia. The latter has distanced itself from the issue of the Darfur crisis and avoided any public remarks on the matter.

Last January well placed sources told Sudan Tribune that Haroun made a failed attempt the month before to travel to Saudi Arabia for annual Islamic pilgrimage on a forged passport.

The source said that Haroun wanted to use a fake passport with a different name for his planned trip in order to apply for a visa to enter Saudi Arabia. However he could not confirm if Haroun actually submitted a visa application to the Saudi consulate in Khartoum.

Haroun ended up cancelling his travel plans after the Sudanese government found out, the source added.

Ocampo said that the court requested an update from Sudan on “activities undertaken in the execution of the warrants and as to any difficulty which may have arisen” with a November 15 deadline but received no response from Khartoum.

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statue, but the UN Security Council triggered the provisions under the Statue that enables it to refer situations in non-State parties to the world court if it deems that it is a threat to international peace and security.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the conflict. The Sudanese government says 9,000 people have been killed.

#### [Former rebel faction accuses Minawi of hegemony in Darfur](#)

(ST) March 30, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A former rebel faction in Darfur confirmed clashes that occurred two weeks ago with SLA-Minawi faction accusing, the presidential aide of trying to impose his hegemony in the war torn region.

Chairman of Sudan Liberation Movement Free Will faction, Abdel-Rahman Musa, said that 17 members of his faction were killed in an attack staged at Kassab area, eastern of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State, by SLA troops loyal to the senior presidential assistant, Minni Menawi.

He further pointed out that Darfur Transitional Authority led by Minawi has transformed the region into a territory of one tribe administrated by unqualified persons. He further said that DTA is not capable of coping with other authorities and is working on isolated island.

In a press conference held on Sunday in the Sudanese capital Musa also denounced attacks launched by Minawi forces recently against Maima and Massalit tribes, which led to death of 50 persons.

Musa said that his faction keeps open all the options including dialogue with other movements even Menawi group.

Meanwhile, the General Commander of SLA - Free Will faction, Adam Salih Abbakar, said that his faction remains committed to the signed agreement with the government and Menawi faction.

### **Miscellaneous**