

3 May 2009

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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### Presidency to announce census results in three days – Luka Biong

*Al-Ayyam* reports GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong as saying the Presidency will meet within the next three days to endorse and announce the census results. He revealed that the FVP Salva Kiir has called on the Population Census Councils in the South and North to meet for consultation but that did not happen.

On elections, Biong said they would be held despite the differences on the census results. He said referendum was the most important issue, pointing out that the Population Census Council refused a proposal to conduct a survey in Khartoum to find out the total number of southerners.

### Geographical constituencies determined on census results – NEC

*Al-Wifaq* reports that the NEC denied any move to conduct elections based on the 1986's constituencies. NEC member Mukhtar Al-Assam said elections constituencies would be decided based on the fifth census results.

Meanwhile, the paper's sources said the Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi would visit Juba after return from Cairo for consultations with SPLM on possible alliance to contest upcoming elections.

### Abyei Administration to be restructured with 1291 posts

Abyei Deputy Chief Administer Rahma Al-Nur said the prevailing security situation in the area is an indication of cooperation and coordination within the Administration at different fields, reports *Sudan Vision*. He said the central government paid the Administration 3 million pounds while the functional structure is expected to be formed within the coming days, adding the Administration was waiting for arrival of the Public Service Bureau team for the approval of restructuring of 1291 posts in different levels.

### UN accused of escalating tribal conflict

An official of the Security Committee in Central Equatoria State says an UNMIS security official has used UN vehicles in facilitating the flow of arms and ammunition to escalate tribal conflict in the region in violation of the mission's mandate, reports *The Citizen*. He claims that these UN assets were used in the "name of humanitarian assistance".

### 40 technical agreements signed on humanitarian work in Darfur

*Al-Ahdath* reports the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has taken a host of measure to sustain stability of the humanitarian situation in Darfur and to ensure rendering more services to the IDPs. The Ministry said 40 technical agreements have been signed between several INGOs and governmental institutions in Darfur to assist camp populations. Humanitarian affairs State Minister Ahmed Haroun, who held lengthy meetings in Nyala and El Fasher, has directed the stepping up of efforts to improve sanitation in the camps before the onset of rainy season. Haroun said a clear work plan was being effectively implemented by the humanitarian task force which includes governmental institutions, national NGOs and INGOs.

Meanwhile, the joint mechanism between the government and UN will hold a meeting today in Khartoum to discuss a report on the humanitarian situation in Darfur States, reports *Al-Khartoum*.

## CPA faces key challenges – Qazi

SRSR Ashraf Qazi said the CPA has entered its final and critical stage, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*. After presenting Qazi his report to the SC on the CPA implementation, Qazi said the self-determination, North-Sudan border demarcation and upcoming elections were key CPA challenges.

## Cairo rejects claims of deal for Al-Bashir's step down

*Al-Intibaha* reports Cairo has rejected media reports indicating the existence of a deal proposed by western countries for President Al-Bashir not to contest upcoming elections in exchange for overcoming the crisis of the arrest warrant issued by the ICC. "The meeting between the Foreign Minister Abu al-Gheith and US Envoy Gration comes within continued consultations between the two countries on the Sudanese issue," Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ambassador Hussam said, According to the Kuwaiti *Al-Qabas* newspaper. Meanwhile, *Ray Al-Shaab* reports that Ambassador Hussam told reporters after a meeting between the US Envoy Gration and Abu al-Gheith that Egypt's strategy on Sudan is based on the need to give an opportunity for all the Sudanese parties to take part in a new and credible police process to achieve peace and stability. "We should not lose sight of the need for justice due to its importance for civilians in Darfur" he added.

*ST* 1/5/09 reported Ambassador Zaki Hussam as saying Egyptian government would dispatch one of its officials to Sudan for discussion on the CPA implementation. The head of Sudan department Mohamed Qasim will visit Khartoum and Juba for discussions on current situation, he said.

Zaki had warned that the situation between the North and South "faces many difficulties" despite the peace agreement signed in 2005. However the Egyptian diplomat did not elaborate.

## US appoints new charge d'Affaires to Sudan

*Akhir Lahza* reports the US has appointed a new diplomat, Robert Whitehead, to head its mission in Sudan. Alberto Fernandez is expected to leave Sudan by the end of the current month.

Sudan's MFA Spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said until last Thursday the Ministry was not officially informed about the appointment of a new US Charge d'Affaires. According to *ST*, Whitehead served at the US embassy in Sudan and Zimbabwe.

## US Envoy due in Khartoum on 5 May – Deng Alor

The *Sudan Vision* reports FM Deng Alor as saying that the US Envoy Scott Gration is expected in Khartoum on 5 May. According to Alor, Gration might return to the Sudan with a new vision or road map that could guide interaction between the two countries. *ST* reports Alor expressed anticipation that Gration would arrive Tuesday with a new policy aimed at realizing peace in Darfur through cooperation with the Government of Sudan.

According to *SUNA*, Alor has expressed Sudan's desire for an effective US role toward realization of peace in Darfur similar to its CPA contribution. On the relations linking Sudan and the European Union, the Minister said the government would exert utmost efforts to pave the way for promoting these relations, reaffirming the necessity for holding serious talks to make a break through in this connection. Regarding the Sudanese-Chadian relations, he said the Ministry is working seriously to normalize them.

## **Authorities bar entry of swine flu-affected nationals**

The Ministry of Animal Wealth has taken a number of measures to avoid transmission of swine flu to the country, including banning entry into the country of the swine flu-affected nationals, reports *Al-Ahdath*. According to *Al-Rai Al-Aam*, the Federal Health authorities searched four planes at Khartoum airport as part of effort to prevent transmission of the disease.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry announced that it would step up campaigns to ensure lawfulness of foreign presence in the Sudan.

## **Efforts underway to organize conference on Sudan**

*Al-Ahdath*, quoting an AU source said the AU is making efforts in collaboration with the Mbeki-led Panel on Darfur to organize a conference on Darfur, to be attended by organizations such as the Human Rights Watch, the ICC etc. The conference is likely to be held in mid June in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile *Sudan Tribune* 2/5/09 reported the Panel on Darfur visited Egypt and Chad as part of their regional tour in Libya, Eritrea and Saudi Arabia.

Mbeki said in Chad that normalizing ties between Khartoum and N'Djamena is a prerequisite for peace in Darfur. "The relations between Chad and Sudan should be normalized, if not it will be difficult to find a solution to the Darfur crisis" he said. Mbeki said that he would continue touring and listening to different parties on the issue of Darfur. "We are still on a listening tour. We wanted to go to Sudan and visit the neighbors of Sudan. People are in the process of identifying what they believe are the crucial issues that have to be addressed to bring peace in Sudan" he said.

According to *AFP* 2/5/09, Mbeki said he was planning to meet ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to discuss the warrant. "We have some contacts with the ICC, with the Prosecutor Mr. Ocampo, and we have agreed that we would find an occasion as soon as possible to meet face to face with him," he said.

## **\$52 million Kuwait loan to Sudan**

*Local dailies* reports the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arabic Development yesterday signed a loan of US\$52 million as contribution towards efforts to heighten Al-Roseiris Dam.

## **Two SPLA officers killed in Malakal**

Two SPLA officers have been killed and others injured following protests and mutiny within SPLA ranks in "Wau-Shiluk" camp in the Upper Nile State, reports *Al-Intibaha*. The paper's source said the mutiny within SPLA was caused by the delay of payment of salaries.

# **Websites/International News Coverage**

## **Extending Sudan mission, SC urges bolstering of north-south peace**

*UN News Centre* 30/4/09 – The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) for another year, urging all parties to fully comply with the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended a 21-year civil war between north and south Sudan.

In a resolution passed unanimously, the 15-member body underscored the "importance of full and expeditious implementation of all elements of the CPA," as well as the so-called Roadmap to reduce tensions in the disputed Abyei region.

UNMIS was established by the Council in 2005 to support the Agreement, which was signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

In his latest report on Sudan, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that if the CPA collapsed, a humanitarian catastrophe could ensue, and he called on the international community to remain focused on ensuring its implementation, and for Sudan to reinstate banned aid groups.

He said that the vacuum left by the ejection of the groups, following the indictment of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir for war crimes in Darfur, has left much of Abyei and eastern Sudan with little humanitarian, recovery or reintegration support, which could hurt peace efforts.

The key benchmarks of the CPA – which ended a conflict in which at least 2 million people were killed and some 4.5 million more driven from their homes – include census results, border demarcation and preparations for a referendum on the final status of areas of southern Sudan.

In today's resolution, deploring what it called "persistent, localized conflict," in southern Sudan and adjacent regions, the Council called on UMIS to strengthen its capabilities in conflict management and protection of civilians, working with the conflict-resolution methods of tribal groups.

It requested the Mission to prepare to assist the parties with the planned national referendum in 2011, if requested, and to support credible national elections, in coordination with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), urging donors to provide technical and material assistance.

The Council also urged donors to respond to calls for assistance to the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, which has recently been stepped up and is considered a crucial element of the CPA.

### **Rebels criticize U.N. report on Darfur conflict**

**Reuters**, 30/4/09 - A Darfur rebel group criticized on Thursday a U.N. report which said violence in Sudan's western Darfur region had subsided into a "low-intensity conflict". JSP Rodolphe Adada said on Monday about 130-150 people were dying each month due to violence in Darfur, versus the tens of thousands who were killed in 2003-2004.

"We in the Sudan Liberation Army strongly condemn this fabricated ... and unfortunate report," Al-Sadig Rokero told Reuters via satellite phone. Rokero is from a branch of the SLA controlled by its founder Abdel Wahed Mohamed Ahmed el-Nour. He said refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP) and civilians had handed a letter to the rebel group's chief commander saying they would not deal with the joint U.N.-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur, known as UNAMID, unless Adada retracted the report.

"This decision is effective today. It means UNAMID personnel cannot enter the liberated areas based on the objection of IDPs, refugees and civilians and the decision of the chief commander unless there is a correction in the fabricated report ... and a clear apology to the people and the world."

UNAMID spokesman Nouredine Mezni said Adada's report was "comprehensive and reflected the reality on the ground". "We are neutral. We are working with all stakeholders on the ground to create an environment conducive to peace," he said.

## **S. Sudan villages clear as LRA attack increasingly closer to Yambio**

**Sudan Tribune website**, 2/5/09 — Local defence forces in Western Equatoria State talked Thursday of wide-scale devastation from attacks by the LRA along the border of DR Congo and nearer to the state capital Yambio, with villagers fleeing by the thousands.

Rural residents are fleeing to the major towns such as Tambura, Ezo, Nzara and Yambio, said Charles Kisanga, a political leader connected to the region who is now living in the United Kingdom.

Kisanga, a former member of the National Liberation Council of the South's ruling party SPLM and chairman of an international organization for the Azande community, said the LRA seemed to be advancing closer to areas around the state capital, Yambio, and Nzara, as indicated by a dawn attack Wednesday on the village of Atanziri.

"The LRA rebels continue to target isolated villages and attack them and causing fear and mayhem which drive many villagers to the main towns," said Kisanga.

Atanziri, which is just about 12 miles from Nzara and Yambio, was reportedly attacked and looted by LRA, killing a policeman and another village man.

"The fallen hero policeman is said to be well-known among the community and his death at the hands of the LRA has sent shock waves to the communities in Yambio and Nzara. The policeman was supposed to be defending the village against LRA but was no match to dozens of LRA who attacked the village to loot food — and they hack anybody to death who does not get out of their way quick enough or who are still caught in bed when the rebels sneak into the villages," stated Kisanga.

The body of the policeman was brought for mourning and burial in Yambio on Thursday. Some of his relatives who fled to Yambio following the attack on said they lived just a few hundred meters from the other villager who was killed by LRA and they said they had been terrified when woken by the sound of gunfire. They ran all the way to Yambio leaving all their possessions behind.

One woman who was pregnant ran all the way to Yambio with her other children and family members, prompting her to go into early labour Wednesday. The premature baby was delivered during the night and is now at Yambio hospital where it is hoped the baby can survive.

Kisanga suggested ominously that a number of officials in the state have started to evacuate their families to Uganda, especially women and children.

"The LRA seem to have now acquired more weaponry than before plus the use of abducted young people who are forced to fight in the ranks of the LRA rebels," he said.

Resurgence of the LRA in the state has caused considerable concern to local South Sudanese officials. According to a 2009 report by the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey, officials disregarded a presidential disarmament order during 2008, largely out of fear to implement the disarmament campaign while the LRA remained armed and active. Rather, the governor of the state has encouraged the growth of armed civilian groups sometimes referred to as "arrow boy" because they are not always well equipped.

LRA activities have picked up since they were attacked in December 2008 in Garamba National

Park in Congo, which LRA first entered from Uganda in 2005. An NGO report from February 2008 by Joost van Puijenbroek and Nico Plooijer alleged that "Garamba has always been a supply zone for various rebel groups by the Government of Khartoum."

As happened in 2008 across an area close to 10,000 square kilometers in northeastern DR Congo, many areas along the border are now empty of people.

Kisanga commented "it is becoming increasingly difficult to see how election process can start in Western Equatoria state as promised by the Government and the Electoral Commission."

### **Sudan: Cholera kills three in Jonglei State**

*IRIN* - Three people have been reported dead in a cholera outbreak in Jonglei State, Southern Sudan, an official said. "Three have died this week from cholera, and a total of 194 are suffering from acute watery diarrhoea, including 110 children below the age of five," said John Lagu, director of communicable diseases surveillance at the Southern Sudan health ministry. "They are receiving treatment, but there are clear concerns that this could escalate," Lagu said. "We are monitoring the situation and will provide all help needed, whatever they may request." Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Belgium, he added, was providing treatment to those affected on the ground.

### **Empowering and protecting Darfur's women focus of new UN initiative**

*(UN News)* Ensuring gender equality and promoting the participation of women in the search for peace in Darfur are among the aims of a new initiative launched by the United Nations in the strife-torn Sudanese region.

Under a cooperation agreement announced today, police serving with the joint African Union-UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) will team up with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to support innovative measures to boost the standing of women in the region.

UNIFEM Regional Director Meryem Aslan urged both parties to enhance gender equality, raise the profile of women and address issues relating to all forms of discrimination against women, particularly in conflict situations.

UNAMID Police are mandated to assist in harnessing the capacity of women to participate in the peace process through political representation, economic empowerment and protection from sexual and gender-based violence.

Together, UNAMID Police and UNIFEM aim to create an enabling environment for women's equal and meaningful participation in the process to bring peace to Darfur, where an estimated 300,000 people have been killed and another 2.7 million have been forced from their homes since fighting erupted in 2003, pitting rebels against Government forces and allied Janjaweed militiamen.

Meanwhile, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that in West Darfur, 10 out of 13 therapeutic feeding centres formerly run by expelled international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have maintained their activities. UNICEF is currently providing salaries or incentives to all staff working in these centres.

The Government expelled 13 international NGOs and suspended the work of three national NGOs following the indictment on 4 March of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity

committed in the region.

A joint UN-NGO assessment in the health, nutrition and water and sanitation sectors conducted yesterday in the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Darfur found that basic services in the sectors are still operational, but a replenishment of some stocks is required.

According to UN estimates, some 65,000 people have been newly displaced so far this year in Darfur.

OCHA also reports that the state Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC) has not handed over the keys to the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) to their warehouses in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur.

## Commentary

### **Population census is a time bomb, is it time to go off?**

*Opinion piece by Ahmed Yusif Al-Tayi – Akhbar Al-Youm* – The fact remains that President Al-Bashir and indeed a number of key SPLM figures, including GoSS President Kiir, Foreign Minister Deng Alor and SPLM SG Pagan Amum, have said that southern Sudan would not accept census results that puts southern Sudan's population below 33% of the total population. The census itself has been a controversial issue between the parties right from the outset with the SPLM threatening to boycott the elections if religion and ethnicity were not included in the census questionnaire.

Observers believe that the current differences over the census results will have serious implications on the transition to democracy and the elections. This leaves the two partners with just two options: either to reach a compromise on the census results or a repeat of the whole exercise which will mean a new budget that would be hard to come by with the current economic downturn and lack of donor response.

Is it true that, as its political opponents claim, the SPLM wants to obstruct the electoral process because of its perceived weakness in the face of the stronger NCP? ... only time will tell.

## Interview

### **The ICC vs Al-Bashir**

#### ***Al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt)***

In an exclusive interview by Hend El-Sayed Hani, International Criminal Court Prosecutor Luis-Moreno Ocampo argues his case against the Sudanese president

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#### **Did you send a fact-finding mission to Darfur?**

Since the start of the investigation into the situation in Darfur, my office has collected statements and evidence during 105 missions conducted in 18 countries, including five missions to Khartoum to meet extensively with representatives of the government and of the judiciary. Throughout the investigation, I have examined incriminating and exonerating facts in an independent and impartial manner.

For the purpose of my office's applications against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir as well as against Ahmed Harun and Ali Kushayb, we have relied primarily on: witness statements taken from eyewitnesses and victims of attacks in Darfur; recorded interviews of government officials; statements taken from individuals who possess knowledge of the activities of officials

and representatives of the government and of the Militia/ Janjaweed in the conflict in Darfur; documents and other information provided by the government upon request of the prosecution; the Report of the UN Commission of Inquiry; the Report of Sudanese National Commission of Inquiry; and other materials obtained from open sources.

**What evidence on the involvement of Al-Bashir do you have?**

In its application to the court for an arrest warrant on 14 July 2008, my office submitted evidence that Al-Bashir used the entire state apparatus, the Armed Forces and the Militia/Janjaweed. Forces and agents controlled by Al-Bashir attacked civilians in towns and villages inhabited mainly by the target groups, committing killings, rapes, torture and destroying means of livelihood. Al-Bashir thus forced the displacement of a substantial part of the target groups and then continued to target them in the camps for internally displaced persons, causing serious bodily and mental harm -- through rapes, tortures and forced displacement in traumatising conditions -- and deliberately inflicting on a substantial part of those groups conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction, in particular by obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In issuing the arrest warrant, the judges found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Omar Al-Bashir has been the de jure and de facto president of the state of Sudan and commander-in-chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces from March 2003 to 14 July 2008 (the date of the application). They also found that, in that position, Al-Bashir played an essential role in coordinating, with other high-ranking Sudanese political and military leaders, the design and implementation of the government counter-insurgency campaign.

Further, the judges found that there are reasonable grounds to believe: that the role of Omar Al-Bashir went beyond coordinating the design and implementation of the common plan; that he was in full control of all branches of the "apparatus" of the state of Sudan, including the Sudanese Armed Forces and their allied Janjaweed Militia, the Sudanese Police Force, the NISS intelligence service and the Humanitarian Aid Commission; and that he used such control to secure the implementation of the common plan.

**Did you receive any help from any Western country to indict Al-Bashir?**

My Office conducts its own investigations, in accordance with the Rome Statute. These investigations, focussing in accordance with Prosecution policy on those individuals bearing the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes, lead to the determination of which cases within a situation will be investigated and prosecuted. It is through this process alone -- following the evidence -- that Al-Bashir was identified for investigation and prosecution.

Generally speaking, member states of the ICC Statute, of which there are 108 from all regions of the world, including 30 from Africa, have an obligation to cooperate with the court in accordance with the statute.

**Why weren't similar measures taken against the Israeli government for its atrocities in Gaza where it used phosphorous weapons against civilians that are banned internationally? Also the massacres going on in Congo and Sri Lanka? And against former US president George W Bush who committed crimes against humanity in Afghanistan and Iraq?**

In fact, the very first investigation that I opened in my position as prosecutor focussed on the grave crimes committed in the Congo -- today, three accused have been arrested and surrendered to The Hague and one trial has already started.

In the case of Iraq, we did analyse the activities of nationals of 25 States Parties involved in

Iraq.

I also received more than 300 communications related to the situation in Gaza, and met with representatives of the Palestinian National Authority who lodged a declaration under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute accepting the jurisdiction of the court. As per normal practice, my office is considering all information, including open sources, and is carefully examining all relevant issues related to the jurisdiction of the court, including whether this declaration meets statutory requirements and whether the alleged crimes fall within the category of crimes defined in the Statute.

Similarly, we are monitoring situations in Afghanistan, Kenya, Colombia, and Georgia.