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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

Abyei returnees face difficult situation

Al-Sudani reports Abyei returnees are facing acute shortage of services especially drinking water, shelter and medical care as well as lack of schools for children education. Officials of the humanitarian aid office have urged the immediate intervention of the central government, GoSS, national and international NGOs to address the situation. HAC official Rao Munil told the paper that 150 women were on their way to Abyei area coming from northern states.

MoHA to order NNGOs and INGOs to work across the country

Al-Rai Al-Aam/SMC report the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs is in the process of ordering national and international NGOs including UN to expand their services to reach all affected population across the country. Deputy General Commissioner and Director of the Emergency Unit Bakhita Abdullah said the NGOs would be ordered to operate all over the country and that would be included in 2009 plan. She said the NGOs and must help affected population at any part in the country instead of concentrating activities on certain areas, adding UN would also be requested to review its activities to include assisting affected population across the country.

SPLA concerned by entry of arms into the Blue Nile State

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports SPLA in the Blue Nile State is concerned by the arrival of over 20 vehicles it claimed loaded with various arms which entered a national service training centre situated south of Damazin city. SPLM Secretary (Minister of Agriculture) in the State Ziad Essa stressed the need for coordination on such matters which he described as "highly sensitive". "We see no need for such a thing which is a negative indication as far as stability and security of the state is concerned," he said adding that SPLA was not informed about the movement of these vehicles.

Political parties call on CPA partners to hold elections on schedule

Al-Intibaha reports the political parties have called upon CPA partners to hold upcoming elections on schedule. Justice Party leader Amin Banani announced that NCP is keen to hold elections on schedule more than SPLM. National Umma Party official Fadulallah Burma Nasir said the CPA partners are not serious about the issue of elections.

Sudan and China to coordinate to protect oil fields

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the Chinese delegation which arrived in Khartoum last Friday engaged in a series of consultations with Sudanese officials on the incident of kidnapped Chinese oil workers. Chinese Ambassador told the paper that the purpose of the visit of the Chinese delegation was also to discuss coordination with Sudanese authorities to ensure safety of Chinese in Sudan. He said the delegation comprised officials from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce as well as other officials.

Foreign Minister holds talks with Arab League Secretary General

Sudan Vision reports Foreign Minister Deng Alor held talks in Cairo yesterday with Secretary General of the Arab League Amru Musa on Sudanese issues especially the progress of the CPA implementation and Darfur issue.

According to ***Al-Sahafa*** newspaper, Deng Alor said JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim agreed to participate in talks in Doha.

US Secretary of State Frazer visit Sudan

Al-Sahafa reports the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer is expected to arrive in Khartoum today for talks with Sudanese officials beginning in Juba. In Khartoum, she will meet with Foreign Ministry officials, Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie and Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail. According to Sudan Vision newspaper, the purpose of the visit is to prepare a final report on Sudan to the next US Administration.

Websites/International News Coverage

South Sudan establishes Bureau for civilian disarmament

(***Sudan Tribune***)– Government of Southern Sudan on Friday resolved to establish a bureau under the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the sole purposes of developing and coordinating a policy for small arms control among the civil population in the semi-autonomous region.

It passed the policy and mandate of the Bureau which would now develop comprehensive strategies and plans to address community insecurity and the misuse of small arms at the state and county levels.

A sum of 5.4 million Sudanese pounds was approved by the Council of Ministers to finance the establishment of the Bureau.

Donors and UN agencies have also promised to financially and technically support the Bureau.

According to the GoSS Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Gabriel Changson Chang, the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control will function as an advocacy body that will be coordinating policies aimed at promoting peaceful, voluntary disarmament of the civil population and small arms control approach.

It will also be linking relevant GoSS ministries, commissions and law enforcement agencies, states, civil society organizations and partners in order to oversee the policy formulation and law making process.

The Bureau will also be coordinating with northern Sudan and regional bodies, particularly the relevant authorities in the neighboring countries, to curb proliferation of small arms and cross-border armed conflicts among civilians.

The Bureau's policy and mandate will then be presented to the parliament for final endorsement.

Insecurity caused by armed sectarian and tribal conflicts among communities in the region has been a wide spread phenomenon.

Attempts by the organized forces to forcefully disarm them have met stiff and deadly resistance for the last three years.

Sudan FM says pro-government militia behind Chinese abduction

(Sudan Tribune) – A senior Sudanese official disclosed yesterday that the group behind the kidnapping of Chinese oil workers is members of a pro-government that fought in the South of the country during civil war years.

The Sudanese government accused members of Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) of standing behind the operation.

However Sudan's foreign minister Deng Alor reversed Khartoum's earlier assertions on the identity of the kidnapers.

"The group who kidnapped the hostages was part of a militia assisting the Sudanese government to fight the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA)" Alor said at a joint press conference with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo.

"After the war they were not integrated into the army and they continued to bear arms and residing in Kordofan. They started carrying out looting which we did not expect to reach that level" he added.

Alor is believed to be referring to the Misseriya tribe who fought alongside Khartoum during the North-South war that ended in 2005.

The head of the kidnapers, Abu Humaid Ahmed Dannay speaking to the London based Asharq Al-Awsat accused the government of killing the oil workers during a failed rescue operation.

Dannay refused labeling the operation as a terrorist one and vowed to carry out more abduction in the future.

"The government is terrorizing us and we will respond in a similar manner" he said.

The killings were some of the worst attacks against Chinese interests abroad as China expands businesses worldwide to buy energy and other raw materials or find new markets.

Qatari official to meet Chadian President, JEM chief over Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) November 1, 2008 (LONDON) — The Qatari state minister for foreign affairs Ahmed Ben Abdullah Al-Mahmoud is expected to travel to the Chadian capital during the next week where he would hold talks with the President Idris Deby and the chairman of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The Qatari visit comes after criticism by the Chadian head of state of sidelining his country in the ongoing efforts to end Darfur crisis. Also, the rebel group warned that their participation in the talks depends also on their involvement in the preparations.

JEM said it will say its final word on the Qatari initiative after talks with the Qatari officials on their initiative. The rebel movement in the past blamed the former mediators for ignoring them during the preparations for the talks and accused them of considering only Khartoum point of view.

Qatari minister will discuss with JEM chief also the role of the joint mediator, and his involvement in the ongoing preliminary arrangements.

Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who handles the preparation for an initiative to mediate between the government and rebel groups met last week with the joint Chief mediator for Darfur, Dijbril Bassolé.

The involvement of Bassolé who is the representative of the international community is seen by the rebels as crucial to guarantee any eventual peace deal with Khartoum.

The IDPs also two weeks ago said the Arab initiative means to protect Sudanese president in order to avoid his indictment by the International Criminal Court.

Joint mediator hold talks with Libyan official on Darfur peace

(Sudan Tribune) November 1, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Libyan African Union affairs secretary Abdel-Salam Al-Tiriki met yesterday with the Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur Dijbril Bassolé who arrived yesterday in the Libyan capital from Qatar.

Libya tried in October last year to broker an initiative to end Darfur conflict. However it failed to convince the rebel groups to take part in the talks, because of its relations with Khartoum but also because of the rebel rejection for the former mediators.

During his meeting with Al-Tiriki, Bassolé expressed full readiness to cooperate with Libya due to its important role in promoting security, peace and stability in Sudan and the region as a whole.

According to the Sudanese News Agency, Bassolé also hailed the Libyan efforts to mend the bilateral relations between Sudan and Chad.

He stressed that good relations between the two neighbouring countries are needed for a successful mediation between the parties in Darfur conflict.

Bassolé arrived to Tripoli from Doha where he held talks with the Qatari officials on their efforts to sponsor the peace talks. As chief mediator Bassolé needs to coordinate with the Qatari partners who seem interested in the preliminary consultations and preparations for the talks.

Links

Somalia's Pirates Flourish in a Lawless Nation . [News Story]. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-10-31AKHY-7KXGTL>

Pirates rule Somali coast; . [News Story]. <http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-10-31AKHY-7KXH3W>