

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 05 November 07

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan leader to discuss Darfur force on South Africa visit

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4 NOV. JOHANNESBURG) Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir will visit South Africa this week for talks over the situation in war-torn Darfur and political upheaval in Khartoum, the foreign ministry said on Sunday. The three-day visit from Monday takes place "within the context of South Africa's support for peace efforts in the Sudan and our priority to consolidate bilateral political, economic and trade relations with Sudan," South Africa's Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said in a statement. Beshir was scheduled to hold talks with President Thabo Mbeki in Cape Town on Tuesday when he would also be guest of honour at a state banquet. The talks at Mbeki's official residence would focus on the progress towards the dispatch of a hybrid African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in the western Darfur region, said the foreign ministry statement.

Bashir, Kiir agree committee of six to resolve CPA crisis

(*The Citizen*) President Omar Al Bashir and First vice President Salva Kiir will name a committee of six to resolve the issues that led the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to walkout of the government. The committee would compromise people from both parties, including the National Congress Party, Kiir, the chairman of the SPLM and the President of Government of Southern Sudan told a press conference Sunday, before he left for an official visit to the United States.

Joint Committee between NC and SPLM Discusses Presidential Outlines on Abyei

(*SMC*) National Congress Party (NCP) welcomes the meeting held between the president and his two deputies regarding resolve the political dispute erupted between the NCP and SPLM. NCP assures confidence on President Al Bashir and his two deputies Salva Kiir and Ali Osman to reach understandings on Abyei. Prominent member of NCP Al Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed Explained that a joint committee was formed between NCP and SPLM and it should discuss the presidential outlines determined on Abyei. Ahmed said the joint committee on its discussion should focus on the temporary administrative boundaries of Abyei area.

Salva Kiir says Sudan peace crisis is over

(*Sudan Tribune.com, Sudan Vision* – 4 Nov. KHARTOUM) Sudanese First Vice President and Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir Mayardit announced on Sunday that a current political crisis in the country had ended. "I confirm that the crisis is over," Mayardit told a press conference in Khartoum before leaving to USA, noting that when Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir and he returned from visits abroad they would issue decisions on what had been agreed upon between them. Kiir explained that SPLM stance on Darfur, which has been evident for a long time, pivots around the SPLM wish for a political, peaceful solution for the problem, which he said promoted the SPLM to seek to assemble Abuja non-signatories to take a unified stand at the negotiations. He reiterated that the SPLM is still working to accomplish that objective, hoping that all factions will partake in the coming round in order to reach a final settlement for the crises.

Salva Kiir says US trip not linked to Sudan peace crisis

(*ST, Akhbar Alyaum*) Sudanese First Vice President and President of southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir, said Sunday he would travel to the United States but denied the trip was because of an ongoing crisis sparked by his ministers quitting the central government in Khartoum. "This trip was planned a long time ago," said Kiir, who is due to fly to Washington on Wednesday at the invitation of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. However Kiir said that the crisis triggered by his ministers' September 11 walkout would be on the agenda.

Alsalamat occupy Moga oilfield in South Kordofan and withdraw after negotiations

(*AlSahafa*) An armed group of more than one hundred men from Alsalamat tribe has yesterday occupied the Moga oilfield in Bloc (6) in South Kordofan. The group kept tens of foreign and Sudanese workers hostages during the whole day after besieging the oilfield. The group demands compensations to their tribes for their area in which 39 wells have been dug. They claim that these wells produce 400 barrels a day. A delegation representing the police and security authorities, the commissioners of Alsalam and Abyei and the tribal leaders has managed to defuse tensions after negotiations with the group. It was agreed that the Salamat set up a committee to negotiate with the concerned authorities such as the Ministry of Energy and Mining.

8000 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia eager to return home

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4 Nov. ASOSSA, Ethiopia) Thousands of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia said, they are eager to return back to their home land to engage them selves in different developmental activities along with their own people. Some 8000 Sudanese refugees who fled in Ethiopia 10 years ago seeking safety are now in Asossa's UN aided, Shrkole refugee camp with the help of Ethiopian and international aid agencies. The Sudanese refugee at shorkol refugee camp said "We are keen to return back to our home land and serve our country, if a relative peace and stability is maintained." Most of the Sudanese refugees are woman while about 1500 of them are children.

September oil revenues reach \$ 275.6 million

(Sudan Vision) The Federal Finance Ministry said that the total oil revenues for last September posted \$275.6m of which \$144m. were export revenues while proceeds of locally consumed crude amounted to \$ 113.6m. Undersecretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance, El Sheikh Elmek, revealed at the meeting of the joint committee for determining oil revenue shares that the federal Government share reached 1544.5m while that of the Government of the South stood at \$98m, with debts of Unity, Upper Nile and Kordofan states (the productive states) at \$ 5.1m. He added that direct expenditure remittances to the Government of the South had reached about \$88m.

Jebelain province blocks entry of goods to Renk

(Khartoum Monitor) Military police in Jebelain province White Nile State blocked the entry of vehicles loaded with consumables to Renk. More than 20 Lorries were seized by the military police resulting in scarcity of consumable goods and a hike in prices in the Renk province, Said Mokhlis Osman Ahmed, Secretary General of the Renk County Chamber of Commerce said. He added that the economic situation in Renk town is in recession. Town folk have become skeptical of the government policies saying that the government may be seeking the starvation of the population in order to secure their allegiance said Mokhlis.

US bears pressures on Kiir to declare war

(AlIntibaha) Sources within the SPLM and AlIntibaha special sources have agreed that the FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir will discuss with the Americans during his present visit to Washington the SPLM plan on escalating military tensions in preparation for war against the north.

The Americans agreed with the SPLM delegation (headed by Pagan Amum) which visited the US earlier that the US Administration will provide the GoSS with funds in case the war resulted in stopping oil production. Kiir will discuss during the visit ways and means for receiving the first batch of the American weapons for the SPLA and the Darfur rebels. Western diplomatic sources in an Eastern African capital said the Americans have a specific message to Kiir. The message is never resume partnership with the NCP.

Opposition forces in Nyala: Government evacuates IDPs from camps

(AlAyam) The opposition political forces in the South Darfur State have accused the Government of having plans on emptying the camps from the IDPs before reaching a solution for the Darfur issue. The opposition forces criticized these policies as inhumane. They also described Sirte talks as a failure. The secretary general of the opposition Umma Party Hamid Saad said the Government is exerting pressures on the IDPs in order to force them evacuate the camps before the arrival of the international troops.

Editorial: Two partners and Abyei issue

(*AlAyam*) editorial argues that the oil has complicated the Abyei issue. It calls on the NCP and SPLM to engage in political dialogue and be flexible by considering the interests of the Miseriya and Dinka.

SAF in 100% state of alert against SPLA, Kiir

(*Sudan Tribune*) First Vice President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir, has asserted that the SAF is currently on the North-South border in a state of complete readiness and alert against the SPLA, referring that the current military escalation by SAF only is due to fear that its non withdrawal from the south at the specified time may lead to the anger of GoSS and SPLA and attacks against SAF.

Sudan jailed opposition leaders to go on hunger strike

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4Nov. KHARTOUM) Two opposition leaders jailed by the Sudanese government for over four months will begin a hunger strike next Wednesday to protest what they describe as “unlawful detention”. A statement issued by the office of Mubarak al-Fadil, leader of the Umma Reform and Renewal opposition party said that he and Ali Mahmoud Hassanein, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), will continue the hunger strike until they are released or prosecuted in the court of law. Sudanese security services arrested Al-Fadil and Hassanein last July over allegations of planning sabotage actions in the country. The statement outlined legal proceedings taken in their case and alleged that they violate their constitutional rights.

GoSS

Ethiopia to construct three roads linking it with South Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) The Ethiopian Government has agreed to provide \$ 15 million for the construction of three roads that link Ethiopia with South Sudan. The Minister of Finance of the Upper Nile State Steven Dio said the Ethiopian Parliament has approved the construction of the roads.

To curb corruption, south adds topic to syllabus

(*The Citizen*) South Sudan will put corruption on the school syllabus as a means of fighting the graft. The speaker of South Sudan parliament Saturday told leaders from the states that it’s a policy of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement to fight corruption through education. The pupils would be taught about corruption and its destructive effects on the country, hoping that when they grow up, they would avoid the vice.

Ugandan rebels meet President for first time on home soil

(*Sudan Tribune*) Rebel delegates met with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in the first home soil talks between the sides, marking another step toward long-term peace for the African nation. Delegates from the insurgent group known for mutilating civilians, forcing children to fight and other atrocities flew from abroad this week to Uganda, where they were met Museveni late Saturday . Museveni met face to face once before with rebels, at then-acrimonious talks in Sudan.

Sudanese Azande condemn fighting in Yambio between JIUs & local Police

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 1 Nov. KHARTOUM) *Find attached the full Press Release*

Darfur

Darfur rebel movements agree in Juba on cessation of hostilities

(*AlSudani*) The Darfur rebel leaders (of six factions) who are currently meeting in Juba have accepted the mediators' proposal on a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities but they made the GoS commitment the ceasefire a condition.

Harba's faction defects from SLM Minawi

(*AlAyam*) The JEM group under the leadership of Harba said it has defected from SLM Minawi. Following the signing of the DPA the group decided to merge with SLM Minawi.

Consultations between Joint Mediation Support Team and Darfur rebel movements begin in Libya

(*AlRai AlAam*) Consultations on wealth sharing under supervision of the Joint mediation Support Team began yesterday in Sirte. The Mediation is organizing seminars on the major issues. Each seminar discusses a specific issue in two days.

Darfur rebels want to change peace talks' venue from Libya

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4 Nov. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebel groups, which rejected to attend the AU-UN mediated talks in Sirte, demanded to change the peace talks' venue from Libya to South Africa. In a meeting held in Juba with the visiting US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios Darfur rebel movements which are there since last month, requested to transfer the venue of the peace talks with Khartoum government to South Africa. According to a report published by the independent Al-Sahafa, the rebels suggested Ghana and Liberia besides South Africa. The different rebel groups said that Libya is not a neutral country in the four year conflict. They also added that they expressed their preference to hold the talks in South Africa since Arusha meeting and the mediators were aware of this demand.

Rebel JEM says to free oil workers after Egyptian contacts

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 4 Nov. KHARTOUM) A Darfur rebel group said on Sunday that it had decided to free five oil workers, two of them foreigners, that it kidnapped in Kordofan late last month, the groups said this release comes following Egyptian intervention. The rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said they would free the hostages, who include an Egyptian and an Iraqi, through the United Nations in the next few days. A rebel JEM commander told the AFP that JEM leadership has taken this decision following contacts from the Egyptian authorities to free the hostages.

First phase of Darfur peace talks in Libya end

(*BBC Monitoring, Sudanese radio*) The adviser to the president of the republic and head of the government delegation to the Sirte talks, Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, has said the first phase of the talks is now complete and that the second phase of the negotiations with the [Darfur] movements has just started with a view to making preparations for the third phase of direct talks within three weeks to one month. In a statement to the radio after returning from the talks, Dr Nafi said he expected the coming days to witness intense meetings in Juba and Darfur to streamline the negotiation process.

Sudanese minister ends Chad visit to assess condition of "abducted" children

(*BBC Monitoring, Sudanese radio*) The minister of social welfare, women and children's affairs, Samia Ahmad Muhammad, has ended a two-day visit to Chad to assess the condition of the children a French organization sought to abduct. Upon her return to the country, the minister condemned the operation and called for more efforts to uncover the details surrounding the incident and those involved. She stressed that Sudan would not neglect the rights of its children.

Editorial and commentaries

Sudanese writer apprehensive about First Vice-President Kiir's trip to USA

(*BBC Mon, AlRai AlAam*) **Commentary by Abu-Ubaydah Abdallah in the "Behind the News" column: "Salva Kiir's visit: The timing and the agenda:**

General Salva Kiir Mayardit, the First Vice-President and the head of the Government of South Sudan, goes today to Washington at a time of accelerating growth in relations between the United States and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM].

Lately, the American Administration has shown clear and great interest in the SPLM in the South. It entered in dialogues with it that have hatched agreements and decisions announced from time to time. The latest was the decision by the US Treasury Department to remove the South from the economic embargo, as well as the three regions and Darfur.

The accelerating and expanding relationship was the result of the visit to Washington two months ago by a SPLM delegation headed by Pagan Amum. This is the visit

which was followed by the crisis that erupted between the two partners, a crisis in which many observers do not rule out a role by the United States.

Salva Kiir's visit today coincides with President al-Bashir's announcement about an end to the dispute between the two sides, with a proposal made by Washington recently for the establishment of a buffer zone between North and South still in mind. The American Administration always says in dealing with the Sudan that it is keen on Sudan's unity and does not support its secession. But when it proposes the establishment of a buffer zone or removes the embargo on the South, this contradicts these statements.

There is an indirect indication that the SPLM is moving to "tickle" both Khartoum and Washington at the same time. This is done by taking advantage of its relation with the militant Darfur movements. One of the most important objectives of the Washington visit, according to the announcement made on it, is to work out an initiative for a peaceful solution in Darfur, in addition to unifying the movements and attempting to make Abd-al-Wahid join the Sirte negotiations.

I believe that the issues related to Darfur in the visit are not as important as much as what the American Administration hears about the developments in the crisis between the [ruling] National Congress Party and the SPLM. All the ropes have been frayed, except for the Abyei knot as proposed by the US Administration in Naivasha, a solution it worked out which most observers fear will be the straw which broke the mule's back.

The question that comes to mind is whether the invitation received by the SPLM from the US State Department was arranged beforehand or came after the announcement that an agreement has been reached between the two partners?

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