

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

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Negotiation door still open before Darfur movements, says UN-AU Spokesperson

(*Sudan Vision*) the door is still open for armed movements in Darfur to join the running peace talks in Serti, Libya to end a four –year dispute, said spokesman of the United Nations- African Union mediation team, Ahmed Fawzi.

The three round talks between the government of Sudan and eight movements attended by the international tend the end violence, he said.

It's disappointing that several movements are not present, but they can joint the second round to express their attitude on crucial issues, he said the door is still open before the movements to join the peace talks, he said. UN and African Union envoys have been holding talks to convince the movements to embrace the negotiations and are expected to visit Juba to meet some movements before flying to Al Fashir, North Darfur.

Close door talks between Kiir, Ki-moon, US Ambassador to UN

(*AlRai AlAam*) The FVP and the GoSS President Salva Kiir held yesterday close door meetings with the UN secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the US Ambassador to the UN. In these meetings Kiir discussed implementation of the CPA and Darfur. In his meeting with the Sudan Mission to the UN, Kiir said that the Presidency has discussed and agreed on all pending issues.

UN worried for delays in the hybrid, emergency meeting for UN Security Council

(*AlSudani*) The UN General Assembly will approve in December the budget of the hybrid force which is planned to be deployed in Darfur at the beginning of next year. A senior diplomat told AlSudani that the African countries will provide around 80% of the force. According to a study prepared by UN experts the hybrid force requires \$

billion a year. The UN admitted delays in the hybrid operation but expects that the transfer to the hybrid will take place early January 08.

UNMIS PIO intensifies contribution in disseminating culture of peace

(*AlAhdath*) A group of students at various universities organized, in collaboration with UNMIS PIO a workshop on the objectives of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) during the period 5-6 Nov. 2007 at Salma Center for Women Studies.

Chief of Media Special Campaigns Unit at UNMIS PIO Jordan Dakamseh told (*AlAhdath* daily) that the workshop was designed as Training of Trainers (ToTs) workshop to qualify the target groups to convene similar workshops in various parts of Sudan with a view to disseminating the culture of peace among the population.

Dakamseh reiterated UNMIS determination to assist the ruling partners (SPLM-NCP) to implement the CPA and make it a reality, maintaining that, the Sudanese people should be first briefed on the peace agreement. "To this effect, we look forward to organize information days, accompanied by sports activities, during which introductory printed materials on the objectives of the CPA are distributed to the public", he emphasized.

He added that PIO would explore the possibility of utilizing, beside the training workshops, the mass and folk media to convey messages on the risks of mines, IDPs voluntary return and the benefit of the population census, which are closely related to the dissemination of the culture of peace.

Dakamseh underlined that UNMIS conducted information days in different parts of the country on the mine risks and the importance of the IDPs voluntary return, saying that conducting special campaigns on the role of UNMIS and the census are under way.

Interviewed by the paper, Christina Barnaba, one of the participants at the workshop, expressed her admiration over the methodology adopted by the workshop's organizers to convey the objectives of the CPA, indicating that she was full aware for the first time of the CPA.

She called on the civil society organizations to follow suit in conducting similar workshops in a bid to widely disseminate the culture of peace. Christina appealed to female and male students regardless of their academic specializations to take part in field activities to effectively contribute in advocating for the objectives of the CPA.

Hennery Da'ood, another participant highly commended holding these workshops stressing the necessity of targeting university students as they are considered influential groups among their communities.

Da'ood expressed, on behalf of the participants, gratitude to the role being played by UNMIS in organizing such training sessions, which he described as empowering students to take lead role in disseminating the culture of peace among the Sudanese population.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

India wants more oil concessions in Sudan

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 7 Nov. NEW DELHI) India's overseas exploration company ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has expressed interest in purchasing stakes in two more oil blocks in Sudan. Sudanese petroleum minister Awad Ahmed Al-Jaz met Indian petroleum minister Murli Deora over breakfast Tuesday, just ahead of the start of the two-day India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, where OVL's interest was conveyed to the Sudanese minister. "OVL already has three blocks in Sudan and it has expressed interest in two more blocks," Al-Jaz told reporters after the meeting, adding, "The doors are open for Indian investment in Sudan."

SAF, SPLA Joint Board convenes

(*The Citizen*) The Joint Defense Board between the SPLA and the SAF convened its meeting in Khartoum Tuesday, as President Omar Al Bashir said in Burundi confirmed that the north would withdraw troops from the south by yearend.

SPLA Chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Oyay Deng chaired yesterday's defense board meeting. The Joint Defence Board, which meets every three months, had earlier cancelled its previous two meetings at the request of the SPLA. The meeting were held at SAF's request. Tuesday's meeting of Tuesday was meant to discuss security arrangements with emphasis on the redeployment of the two armies: SAF and the SPLA. Up to the time of writing this story, the JDB close door meeting was still going on.

Dababeen (suicide tank blowers) warn of presence of foreign NGOs in Sudan

(*Alwan*) The Amir (Commander) of the Dababeen (suicide mujahideen who blow up tanks) and NCP MP, Mohamed Ahmed Haj Majid, urged the government to expel the French Ambassador to Khartoum and all French NGOs. He criticized international organizations and international community for being silent on the issue of Darfur abducted children. "The presence of these NGOs incites breeding terror and emergence of extremists who see every day how we are defamed and may result in many things", Haj Majid concluded.

Hot debate at Khartoum State Legislative Assembly on raiding of SPLM offices

(*AlSudani*) The conflict between the NCP and SPLM was reflected yesterday in the MPs debates at Khartoum State Legislative Assembly. The SPLM Parliamentary Group criticized the police raid of the SPLM offices in Khartoum. The NCP MPs argued that the issue of raiding the SPLM offices is an issue that concerns the Federal not the State Government.

Washington: Sudan more democratic than many Arab countries

(*AlRai AlAam*) The American Charge d'affaires to Khartoum refuted the allegations of the Egyptian writer Talaat Rameeh accusing the US of plans to divide the Sudan. and Africa. He said the US is keen in the unity of the Sudan. "I meet on daily basis the government's and opposition leaders who did not hint to an Israeli involvement in

Darfur”, the American diplomat said. He said democracy in Sudan is relatively better in Sudan than in Egypt and other Arab countries.

VP Taha: stopping delivery of goods to South Sudan harms unity

(*AlSahafa, AlAyam*) Vice President Ali Osman Taha instructed White Nile authorities to immediately remove all obstacles hindering the smooth flow of trade between the North and the South. He described commercial boycotting imposed by the state on Upper Nile state as harmful step for unity and national conscious. However, the crisis between the two states erupted last Thursday following the White Nile state banning Nile purges loaded with goods to navigate to Renk in Upper Nile state.

NCP-SPLM joint political committee begins debating on Abyie issue

(*AlAhdath*) Vice President, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Tuesday conveyed to the 6member joint Committee of the NCP and the SPLM the directives of the President of the Republic to begin its sessions soonest as possible.

Taha urged the committee to work to improve the atmosphere for political interaction between the NCP and the SPLM as well as to ward off all the impacts of the recent row between the two sides at all levels: political, partisan, institutional and media. Taha gave instructions to the government's offices and departments to cooperate with the committee and provide whatever necessary information so that the Committee would be able to do its mission and submit its report towards solving the necessary decisions in order to overcome the crisis.

Meanwhile, the members of the committee affirmed that they would do their best, considering the resolutions issued recently as well as the agreement between President Al-Bashir and the First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit in order to realize a positive atmosphere and to enhance the partnership as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which was signed by the two sides.

Meanwhile, Co-spokesperson of the committee on the part of the NCP Aldirdiri Mohamed Ahmed stated that the committee would discuss the dispute on Abyie in accordance within a specific mandate from the presidency of the Republic which stipulates nurturing of the Abyie’s administrative boundaries with ideas to enable the presidency fulfilling its commitment by settling the issue on the deadline of 31 Dec.

The committee's co-spokesman, on the part of the SPLM Yasir Arman, said the committee has laid drawn a program for the issues proposed, pointing out that solutions have been suggested for resolving controversial issues, melting the ice and ensuring the flow of goods to the South. He said he was optimistic that the two sides will find a way out of the impasse.

In press statements he made following the meeting, Arman added that in its first meeting the committee dealt with the roots of the problems and said it will look today into means of settling the Abyei problem. He revealed that efforts were ongoing for revitalizing the spirit of equitable partnerships and addressing all the issues.

Some 6,000 ex-rebel supporters reportedly join ruling party

(BBC Monitoring) -- Al-Watan The chairman of the [former rebel] Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in Kassala Rural Locality [eastern Sudan], Yasin Salih, has announced his defection, together with 6,000 other leading members and cadres, from the SPLM to join the [ruling] National Congress Party [NCP].

Yasin revealed to Al-Watan that they had joined the NCP as a result of the severe marginalization practised by the SPLM against them and the movement's lack of credibility. He further called on the NCP to deal with the new members out of conviction and said a big ceremony would take place in Shanbuk in Kassala Rural Locality to celebrate the great occasion.

GoSS

South Sudanese Equatorians in tears for Yambio officers killing

(Sudan Tribune.com — 6 Nov. JUBA) Hundreds of mourners in Juba, today November 6th attended burial of Equatorian police officers shot by SPLA soldiers from Dinka tribe while on duty at Yambio police station of Western Equatoria state on November 4th 2007. The slain officers are; Brigadier General Michael Sebit Josua from Kakuwa tribe, Lt. Col. Abbud Abdalla Isa Wani from Pojulu tribe and Major Joseph Armino from Zande tribe along other seven police whose names are yet to be released.

Addressing the emotional mourners, the Governor of Central Equatoria State, Clement Wani Konga said, "The fact that our Equatorian officers are deliberately murdered in cold blood while performing their national duty, I still appeal to all of you Equatorians not to revenge on any Dinka as we in the government of southern Sudan are doing every possible efforts to ensure that those culprits are brought to book."

If our brothers the Dinka are not interested to live in a united Southern Sudan, then we will have no objection but to demand to be a good neighbor in a federal state of Southern Sudan. Governor Wani, emphasizes that the cold blood killing of Equatorian officers by Dinka should not bring division among southern Sudanese.

The burial prayer for Brigadier General Michael Sebit Josua was officiated by Fr. Kamilo Mogga who also appeals to all southern Sudanese to embrace justice, peace and reconciliation among themselves at all time.

US businesses can now operate more easily in South Sudan

(Sudan Tribune.com — 6 Nov. CAIRO) New regulations governing U.S. sanctions against Sudan mean U.S. businesses can now operate more easily in the semi-autonomous south, which is struggling to develop after decades of war with Khartoum, analysts said.

An October 31 notice from the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has cleared up confusion arising from a sanctions order issued last year. The new notice said most activities and money transactions, other than in the oil industry, are allowed

in the south. Southern Finance Minister Kuol Athian told Reuters last month that he had recently visited the United States to push for easier U.S. investment in the south. He also said that since his trip dollar restrictions had been lifted, facilitating business.

South Sudan may send teachers to Uganda for training

(*The Citizen*) South Sudan plans to take teachers to Uganda for training, the education Minister has said. Yesterday, Job Dharuai Malou told the Citizen that his ministry was, with a visiting ministry of education delegation from Uganda, due to discuss a memorandum of understanding signed with the neighboring country. Dharuai said Uganda shares experience with South Sudan because Uganda has had war for decades. Malou said they want to know how Uganda established a strong education system. The Minister said his ministry would soon begin adult literacy campaign that will later prepare the adult to read, understand and write.

Darfur

Darfur mediators meet rebel JEM over peace talks

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 6 Nov. LONDON) A delegation from the UN and African Union (AU) mediators met today with representatives of a key rebel movement in a bid to convince them to join Darfur peace talks with Khartoum government.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, the spokesperson of the Justice and Equality movement told Sudan Tribune that a delegation from the joint mediation met Tuesday at an unspecified location in Darfur with a JEM delegation headed by Chief negotiator Ahmed Tugod Lissan.

Ahmed Hussein, who welcomed the visit, said JEM has reaffirmed its keenness to achieve peace in Darfur. However, he reiterated JEM demands for “full ownership of the peace process.” He further said that infantilizing the rebel groups is not a good choice the sake of peace in Darfur.

He underscored that mediators should better learn to deal with rebels as mature movements. The rebel spokesperson said also that “We should be treated on equal foot because the mediation has to hear our point of view with regard to the form and the procedural measures.” Why they just talk with Khartoum and ignoring us in every thing? This is not a behaviour of neutral mediator.” He added.

Chinese Ambassador to Sudan affirms China’s contribution to Darfur peace

(*Sudan Vision*) China's Ambassador to Sudan, Li Chnegwen, has affirmed the need for more cooperation between the parties concerned with Darfur case as well as adherence to the role of the main channels for the three main mechanisms, namely the UN, AU and the Sudanese government in.

He underscored the Chinese role in pushing forth the political solution in Darfur, indicating that China has participated in all the UN Security Council's deliberations on reaching a speedy solution for Darfur crisis, most markedly in Resolution 1769 which, he said, was acceptable to all parties. He revealed that China has made great efforts to

pass that resolution, in addition to undertaking intensive discussions with the Security Council members and the Sudanese government on issues associated with Darfur case.

Civilians in Darfur Haskanita receive aid one month after fighting

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Nov. GENEVA) The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has distributed relief supplies to 5,560 people who fled their homes to the countryside and villages around Haskanita, North Darfur, following the fighting that took place on 29-30 September.

An ICRC team of 37 staff with 13 trucks has just returned from the Haskanita area, where they spent 10 days assessing the situation and meeting the essential short-term needs of 1,112 families who have lost their homes and all personal belongings.

African Union soldiers abandoned their base near Haskanita town, south east Darfur after an attack blamed on rebels on Sept. 30 that killed 10 AU soldiers and injured a dozen more. The town was left under government control.

A week later U.N. officials confirmed Haskanita town had been razed and all the inhabitants were gone. The army said a fire in the market had caused the destruction.

The ICRC distributed lentils, sorghum, oil, sugar and salt to the most vulnerable people concerned, and provided emergency household items such as sleeping mats, blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, clothing and some urgent medical supplies. ICRC engineers also replaced essential parts and equipment needed to put five water yards back into operation that supply drinking water for 15,000 persons, both residents and displaced people.

Mbeki urges rapid deployment of hybrid force in Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Nov. CAPE TOWN) South African President Thabo Mbeki called Tuesday for a rapid deployment of the long-awaited AU-UN hybrid force in Darfur after meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir.

"The AU-UN hybrid force should be deployed without further delay," Mbeki said at a state banquet held for the Sudanese leader in Cape Town.

He continued, "all outstanding issues in this regard should be solved as a matter of urgency on the basis of existing United Nations decisions and by agreement between the AU, the UN and the government of Sudan.

"All necessary steps should be taken to ensure the security of the civilian population and the internally displaced people in Darfur, as well as create the conditions for humanitarian assistance to reach the sections of the population in need."

Mbeki's call came after a three hour meeting with Beshir during which the Sudanese leader is believed to have asked South Africa to add to its 600 troops in the troubled western region when a beefed up peacekeeping mission begins operations.

Mbeki also said he was "very pleased" that an agreement had been reached to bridge recent political upheaval in Khartoum sparked by Sudan People's Liberation Movement pulling its ministers out of the national unity government.

Rebel JEM waiting for UN before freeing oil workers

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Nov. KHARTOUM) A Darfur rebel group said on Tuesday it was waiting for a United Nations mission to arrive so it can free five oil workers kidnapped last month in the neighboring Kordofan region. "We are still waiting for the people from the UN," said Abdelaziz el-Nur Ashr, from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

Ashr had said on Sunday that the movement's leader Khalil Ibrahim had ordered the five to be released at the request of the Egyptian government. The rebels had previously made the hostages' release conditional on their employers' withdrawal from working with the Khartoum government to develop Sudan's oil resources.

Sudan demands South Africa mediation in Darfur conflict

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Nov. CAPE TOWN) Sudan has asked South Africa to mediate on Darfur, the South African foreign minister said Tuesday as attempts to end a conflict that has killed more than 200,000 and forced 2.5 million from their homes appeared to founder. Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir made the request to his South African counterpart Thabo Mbeki at a meeting Tuesday, a day after a spokesman for U.N. and African Union mediators pressed Darfur rebels to come to peace talks in Libya.

Darfur former governor blames conflict on marginalization

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 6 Nov. SIRTE, Libya) Ahmed Ibrahim Diraiqe is a man who has experienced a world of change in his home Darfur. Now in his 70s, he has seen the tribal chieftom system give way to a Khartoum-based government that he holds responsible for the neglect of the region and the subsequent slide into conflict.

Read more: <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24628>

UN, AU mediators meet Darfur rebels

(AFP) United Nations and African Union mediators met on Tuesday with key rebel chiefs in Darfur in a bid to persuade them to join peace talks with the Sudan government, a rebel leader said. "We are examining ways of emerging from the tunnel," one of the leaders of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Abdelaziz el-Nur Ashr, told AFP by telephone.

He spoke as UN and AU officials met rebel leaders at an unspecified location in the troubled Darfur region of western Sudan, days after rebel groups boycotted peace talks launched in the Libyan resort of Sirte. "Our movement considers that the Sirte meeting was a failure because there was not enough time to prepare it and those invited were not representative" of all the factions, Ashr said.

The UN and UA have sought to make contact with rebel factions that boycotted the Sirte peace talks in an effort to begin new negotiations next month.

Sudan wants more S Africa troops in Darfur, Beshir tells Mbeki

(AFP) South African President Thabo Mbeki came under pressure from Sudanese leader Omar al-Beshir to increase the number of peacekeeping troops in Darfur as the pair held talks in Cape Town on Wednesday.

While there was no official statement on the outcome of the three hours of talks, a top advisor to Beshir said that the Sudanese president wanted South Africa to increase the 600 troops which are currently stationed in the troubled western region when a beefed up peacekeeping mission begins operations.

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who also took part in the talks, said that the situation in Darfur was complicated.

Beshir and Mbeki were expected to resume their talks on Wednesday after a state banquet for the Sudanese leader on Tuesday night.

Mauritania to send battalion to UN-AU hybrid force

(AFP) Mauritania has pledged up to 800 troops to a planned 26,000-strong joint AU-UN peacekeeping force to be deployed in the troubled Sudanese region of Darfur, a United Nations official said on Tuesday.

President Sidi Mohamed Ould Sheikh Abdallahi, made the offer at a meeting with a UN peacekeeping advisor Major General Per Arne Fjerve, said the official who asked not to be named.

Some 30 Mauritanian military observers and police officers are already in Darfur as part of the ill-equipped AU force of under 7,000 troops which has failed to end the bloodshed that has left around 200,000 people dead in Darfur from the combined effect of conflict and famine since 2003.

Darfur, Sudan peace on agenda as Bashir meets Mbeki

(Reuters) Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir met with South African President Thabo Mbeki on Tuesday during a visit expected to address the Darfur crisis and implementation of a deal that ended Sudan's 20-year civil war.

Mbeki, who has mediated crises in a number of African nations, hopes to help ease tensions in Sudan where the government is under pressure to end violence in Darfur and prepare for the deployment early next year of a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force.

UN-AU spokesman for Libya talks says armed forces welcome to join peace talks

(BBC Monitoring) – *Suna website* Geneva, 6 October: The door is still open for armed movements in Darfur to join the running peace talks in Sirte, Libya to end a four-year

dispute, said Spokesman of the United Nations-African Union mediation team, Ahmad Fawzi.

The three-round talks between the government of Sudan and eight movements attended by the international tend the end violence, he said. "It's disappointing that several movements are not present, but they can join the second round to express their attitudes on crucial issues", he said. "The door is still open before the movements to join the peace talks", he said.

UN and AU envoys have been holding talks to convince the movements to embrace the negotiations and are expected to visit Juba to meet some movements before flying to Fashir, North Darfur. "Some issues - power and wealth share and security arrangements - are complicated, but time is passing and will serve noone of the negotiating parties", he said. "It's time for the movements to unify their stands and name their representatives as the international community is devoted to Darfur crisis", he said.

UN-AU Envoys visit South, Darfur

(*AlSahafa*) Spokesperson for the UN-AU mediation team Ahmed Fawzi, said that the door remains open for those who wish to join the peace process, but warned that now was the time for the rebels to unify behind a common delegation and position.

He added that the talks conducted in Sirte, Libya was phase one of three part UN-AU peace process aimed at quelling violence in Darfur, indicating that the coming phase would start in the first week of next Dec.

He noted that UN-AU Envoys Ian Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim would visit Juba, Southern Sudan for more consultations with rebel movements staying in Juba prior to their departure to Fashir in Darfur.

Editorial & commentaries

Editorial: The bill of armed forces

(*Khartoum Monitor*) ***Find attached the full text***

Alfred Taban writes on Massacre in Yambio

(*Khartoum Monitor*) ***Find attached the full text***

When Will Darfur Mediators Learn?

(*Sudaneseonline.com*) ***Find attached the full text***

By Suliman A. Giddo