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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report 13th November 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Koffi Annan to start tour

(*AlWihda* – 13th Nov.) UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will soon embark on a 10-day world tour that will bring him to Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Turkey and Switzerland, reports a Russian news agency.

In Sudan, the Secretary-General will hold talks with officials in Khartoum and tour the Darfur region.

UN's humanitarian chief meets Ugandan rebel leader

(*AP* – 12th Nov. **Ri-Kwangba, Sudan**) The U.N.'s humanitarian chief, Jan Egeland, held talks yesterday with the LRA leader, Joseph Kony, in a jungle clearing in southern Sudan in a bid to help free women and children enslaved by the cult-like group during their 20-year conflict with the Ugandan government.

They exchanged a brief, formal handshake before holding talks under a green, U.N.-erected tent. After the talks, Egeland told journalists that the LRA had agreed to give the U.N. an assessment of how many women and children were in its camps.

Egeland is the first high-ranking U.N. official to meet Kony, who has declared himself a Christian prophet fighting to rule Uganda and its 26 million people by the Ten Commandments.

The infamous rebel leader kept Egeland waiting for two hours at the makeshift camp close to the border with Congo. He also denied that the insurgency group was holding any women or children.

Egeland later described the meeting as a success, and said the LRA would report on the numbers of women and children in its camps. He didn't give any explanation for the discrepancy with Kony's statement on women and children in the camps [*most local dailies describe Mr. Egeland's mission as a failure because the LRA did not give figures for the women, children and injured within its ranks*].

Egeland was accompanied by Riek Machar, vice president of southern Sudan and chief mediator in peace talks, a team of U.N. security officials and Ugandan government and rebel negotiators.

He also met with Vincent Otti, the LRA deputy who is also wanted for war crimes.

"I am a humanitarian worker, I help people by relating to people who can unlock situations," Egeland told journalists late Saturday before his party officially announced the visit.

Egeland said he was unwilling to discuss the issue of the ICC arrest warrants, which the rebels say threaten the fragile peace deal signed with the government in southern Sudan's capital, Juba.

The rebels want the warrants dropped before they sign a comprehensive peace deal, while the Ugandan government says it will ask for them to be lifted only after a full agreement is reached.

Uganda's government welcomed Egeland's meeting with Kony.

"If he can secure the release of women and children through his meeting then that would be a very positive boost for the Juba talks," Ruhakana Rugunda, head of the government negotiating team and Uganda's minister of internal affairs, said late Saturday.

After his two-day visit to Juba, Egeland will fly on to the troubled Darfur region in Sudan's west. The trip will be his last to Africa as the U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator. He steps down next month.

WFP withdraws from areas north of el-Geneina

(*AlIntibaha*) The WFP has withdrawn its offices in areas north of el-Geneina following militia attacks on Kulbus, Siliea, Abu-Surrouj and Sirba.

The WFP coordinator for Darfur said in a press statement yesterday that those areas north of el-Geneina are insecure and called upon government to guarantee security to enable the WFP carry out its activities in those areas.

The WFP coordinator for Darfur said that the WFP has also sent a helicopter to evacuate humanitarian workers from those areas and called for more cooperation from the government to enable them provide assistance to the needy [*AlWihda*].

Asked to comment on reports that the humanitarian agencies may wind up operations should the government continue in its rejection to a deployment of international forces to Darfur, Ricaldo said that it is not likely that this will happen. He pointed out that the humanitarian agencies do not have any political link and have no link with what takes place within the Security Council.

AlHayat meanwhile reports that the SAF has denied having attacked Abu-Surrouj area in West Darfur State.

A spokesperson for the SAF said that the news reported by *Rai AlShaab* daily yesterday (12/11/2006) is untrue and unfounded but pointed out that the SAF reserves the right to attack rebels and outlaws wherever they may be. He urged local newspapers to be accurate in their reporting of news on military issues due to their sensitive nature.

Government accuses NRC and IOM of threatening national security

(*AlWan* – 12th Nov. **Nyala**) Authorities in South Darfur have accused international agencies operating in the state of trying to cause rifts between the local police and the IDPs in a bid to give the impression that the IDPs have lost faith in the authorities in Sudan.

Authorities say some of these organizations have deviated from their mandate and have engaged in activities that infringe on national security.

The NRC has been cited as one of such organizations and the government of S. Darfur says that the organization has, for the third time, issued a report that is not in line with the nature of its functions.

The Governor of S. Darfur yesterday formally requested United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sudan, Manuel da Silva, to urge these agencies to abide to the letter and spirit of the laws regulating humanitarian activity.

Governor Atta-el-Mannan also pointed out that the IOM represents an example of a failed organization “with the sum total of its activities standing at zero as it has failed to return IDPs for the last two years”. He pointed out that the IOM has in fact become an obstacle to returns.

Atta-el-Mannan and da Silva also discussed the issue of the killing of an African Union interpreter who accompanied Undersecretary-General Jan Egeland in his tour of Darfur last May. The governor said that the family of the murdered interpreter blame Mr. Egeland for the death of their son and have called on the United Nations and the African Union to pay blood-money. He says that they intend to sue Mr. Egeland because he had visited Kalma camp where their son was killed against the advice of the state government.

Alwan also reports that an official WFP report warns of an acute shortage in food assistance in most IDP camps in Darfur. The WFP has called upon the state governments in the Darfurs to carry out a survey on the vulnerable IDPs.

The Government of South Darfur State has meanwhile acknowledged that the IDPs in the state comprise not more than 10% of the population.

Meanwhile, Manuel Aranda da Silva says the situation in Darfur requires more efforts to resolve. The humanitarian coordinator has announce that a tri-partite committee made up on the United Nations, the African Union and the government in Nyala has been formed to tour 20 villages targeted as a model for voluntary returns. This will be followed by other programs such as humanitarian assistance and compensation in a bid to bolster efforts for an end to the crisis in the IDP camps in Darfur.

United Nations and the Transitional Debate

Bashir, Annabi discuss support for the African Union in Darfur

(*AlSudani*) In a meeting here yesterday, President Bashir held talks with ASG for Peace Keeping Operations, Hedi Annabi, on the situation in Darfur and implementation of plans for resolving the Darfur conflict.

Presidential advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail who also held separate talks with Mr. Annabi said following his meeting with the visiting UN official that the Sudan government was committed to strengthening the African Union and facilitating its role in Darfur on the basis of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

He expressed hopes that the Sudan government, the UN, the AU and the Arab League will reach common grounds in the forthcoming meeting on the 16th of this month in Addis ahead of the African Union Peace & Security Council meeting in Congo-Brazzaville on the 24th of this month.

Sudan reiterates rejection of UN peacekeepers in Darfur

(Xinhua – 12th Nov. **Khrt.**) During a meeting yesterday with visiting French foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir reiterated his country's refusal of deploying an international peacekeeping force to be sent by the United Nations in Darfur.

Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy is in Sudan on a two-day official visit.

Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs al-Wasila al-Samani told reporters following the meeting that al-Bashir urged the international community to help reinforce the 7800-strong African Union troops which are undertaking the peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

The Sudanese president also stressed his country's full respect for the security and sovereignty of Chad and the Central African, denying the accusation that Khartoum was baking rebels of the two countries to launch cross-border attacks from Sudan, al-Samani said.

Al-Samani disclosed that the French foreign minister expressed his "complete understanding" for Sudan's position of refusing the deployment of international peacekeeper in Darfur, and his keenness to mediate between Sudan and Chad and the Central Africa.

"Sudan and France agree that the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) must be completed by bringing in those refusing to accept the agreement until now, and President al-Bashir thanked France for its efforts to help look for a comprehensive settlement for the conflict in Darfur," al-Samani added.

The French foreign minister told reporters following his meeting with his Sudanese counterpart that the Sudanese government, the African Union and the UN should work together to find a comprehensive settlement of the Darfur issue.

"It has aroused concern that there are tens of thousands of displaced persons who have not received humanitarian assistance because of the deteriorating security situation," the French foreign minister said.

He reiterated the need to expand the Darfur Peace Agreement, signed between the Sudanese government and a main rebel faction, to include other rebel groups which have not signed the agreement, saying "this is very important for achieving a final settlement of the problem."

He also announced that his country would provide additional 1million euros (about 1.28 million U.S. dollars) for AU peacekeeping forces in Darfur.

France calls for comprehensive settlement of Darfur crisis

(Xinhua/AP – 12th Nov. **Khrt.**) Visiting French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy stressed on Sunday that the Sudanese government, the African Union and the United Nations should work together to find a comprehensive settlement of the Darfur issue.

Doust-Blazy told reporters following his meeting with his Sudanese counterpart Lam Akol that "the three sides must intensify their efforts in order to find a solution to get out of the difficult situation in Darfur which has negatively affected several countries in the area."

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"It is comprehensively believed that the AU forces must be reinforced and their capability must be promoted with the logistic support and financial assistance to be provided for them," he said, adding that views of France and Sudan on this issue were identical.

The *AP* reports that at the start of his two-day visit to Sudan, Douste-Blazy said France would support an Egyptian suggestion to send extra troops from Arab and Muslim countries to bolster the AU peacekeepers now in Darfur.

"The priority is to protect the civilians and any proposal to that effect will be supported by us, including a mixed force," Douste-Blazy told reporters after the meeting with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo earlier Sunday.

CPA

Corruption, insecurity threaten Sudan's CPA

(*The East African* – 12th Nov. **Nairobi**) Corruption, insecurity and bad faith on the part of the Khartoum government in sharing oil profits is slowing Southern Sudan's recovery from years of civil war.

A two-day governors' conference on the country's oil industry was told that Juba, the capital of the Government of Southern Sudan, is still plagued by insecurity while the political elite in Khartoum and Juba were accused of waiting in the wings to pocket oil dollars.

The talks, held just over a week ago, were attended by top government representatives, MPs, donors, civil society and human rights groups. They saw the Khartoum government accused of keeping oil revenues for itself, of being secretive about contracts signed during the conflict and keeping the information on revenues under wraps.

This was the first soul-searching meeting since the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed in Nairobi signifying the end of two decades of fighting.

Both the national government and the Government of Southern Sudan were asked to lift all confidentiality clauses on oil contracts and to incorporate all state revenues and expenditures into the country's budget and make them public as agreed in the the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

But government representatives insisted that the money was on budget and had been disbursed.

The undersecretary in charge of the national economy at Sudan's Ministry of Finance, Alsheikh Almak, said the share transferred to the government in the South from oil exports between January and August was \$571.37 million, while for August alone it stood at \$98.2 million.

The share has been rising steadily as the total direct transfer to Southern Sudan from January to April amounted to \$348.81 million.

Mr Almak said the transfer for petrol revenues for May stood at \$93.1 million.

But as the dollars flow in, the avenues of grand corruption are expanding. The reality of how corruption has seeped into the government was brought home by the suspension of five senior Ministry of Finance officials suspected of buying vehicles at inflated prices.

There has been little reconstruction in Juba more than a year after the CPA was signed. However, George Nyanja a former Kenyan MP and an architect who has clinched deals to undertake major projects in the south, said it was still too early to expect a major boom.

"We are still on the drawing board, doing contracts and in some cases doing the drawings. Once this is over, you are going to see major explosion," Mr Nyanja said at Juba International Airport on his way to Rumbek.

The low activity on the ground was also attributed to the fact that donors have not lived up to their pledges, committing only \$430 million of the \$2.6 billion needed for reconstruction.

Mr Annan has in the past complained that multidonor trust funds administered by the World Bank, "have proved ill-suited to meet immediate post conflict requirements."

During the conference, Kenya's Gen (Rtd) Lazaro Sumbeiywo, the chief mediator of the Intergovernmental Agency on Development (IGAD) peace process that culminated in the signing of the CPA, said the fruits of the agreement would only be seen once there was more food, schools and hospitals.

The Government of Southern Sudan vice president Gen Dr Riek Machar, who officially opened the conference organised by the New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI Network) and European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS), said they did not wish to see oil overshadow other sectors of the economy.

Oil companies were asked to adhere to best practices by ensuring there was no environmental degradation.

The State Minister for energy and Mining, Angelina Teny, said the problems bedevilling the sector were due to the fact that the National Petroleum Commission had yet to be set up as envisaged by the CPA.

She said the dispute over who were the rightful owners of the various concessions has yet to be resolved.

Federal, South Sudan Interior ministers discuss coordination

(*SudanTribune.com* – 12th Nov. **Khrt.**) Federal minister of Interior and southern Sudan Interior minister discussed today coordination between the two ministries in Khartoum.

Federal Interior Minister, Al-Zubair Bashir Taha received Minister of Police and Security of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Paul Mayom Akec. The meeting discussed coordination and cooperation as provided by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The two ministers also dwelt on the ongoing efforts to promote federal police directorates - passports, civil record and customs.

The meeting reviewed institutional frameworks on which performance of police in the south is based, social peace and rendering of better police services to all the people.

State Minister at the Interior Ministry Aliu Ayang, General Director of Police Gen. Mahjoub Hassan Saad and deputy director Gen. Omar Jafar Mohamed Osman have attended the meeting.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM*

S. Sudan urges Uganda refugees to return for referendum census

(*Daily Monitor* – 12th Nov. **Kampala**) The government of South Sudan has dispatched a delegation to persuade thousands of its reluctant refugees in Uganda to return home. The delegation urged the rapid return of the refugees for next November census.

According to Ugandan Daily Monitor, Mr Etien Kouassi Lazare, the UNHCR Head of Sub Office in Kajo Keji, Sudan organized the 14-member team comprising government and NGO officials to update the exiles on the prevailing situation in their native land and inspire them to return.

The team leader, Emilio Igga Alimas, the commissioner for Magwi county in Eastern Equatoria State, told the refugee community in Ikafe settlement camp in Yumbe district on Saturday that they should get home quickly in order to be enumerated in the November 2007 general census so as to participate in the landmark (secession) referendum provided in the January 2004 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

In April 2006, the southern Sudan government released \$24 mln to bankroll the arduous resettlement and reintegration exercise of returnees and IDPs, which is partly being executed by the Norwegian Church Aid.

In a bid to woo the refugees back home, the commissioner assured them that such militia attacks as the recent ones on the Nimule-Juba road will not repeat and that there is amnesty for all offences committed in the past.

The officials unveiled a package of pleasantries including lucrative job opportunities for the lowly learned and availability of schools, roads and other social infrastructure in Sudan.

“The refugees must, however, recognize that from war, you can’t have everything at once. There are certain things they will have to do to improve their welfare and this is why they should return now,” Alimas said.

Barry Abdoulaye, the new UNHCR Head of Sub Office in Arua, said it was appropriate for the refugees to consider going back voluntarily because funds for the UN refugee agency to cater for them are dwindling.

SPLA admits to killing 40 civilians in southern Sudan

(*AllIntibaha*) A number of SPLA combatants have admitted killing 40 people in southern Sudan using traps targeting civilians.

The committee monitoring the truce between the LRA and the Ugandan government have arrested 15 SPLA soldiers suspected for the attacks on civilians.

10 killed, 15 injured in attack on SPLA base in Mairam

The spokesman of the Joint Defence Board, Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajan, accuses the SAF and militias of launching an attack on an SPLA base in Mairam, West Kordofan killing 10 (among them 3 civilians) and injuring 15.

He says hundreds of southern Sudanese were forced to flee the area as a result of the attack.

He said that the tensions were sparked some time back when government-backed militias demanded the SPLA detach under the command of Sultan AbdelBagi to relocate south of the 1.1.'56 line.

The JDB spokesperson pointed out that the SPLA has not demanded that government-backed militia leave southern Sudan.

Meanwhile the AbdelBagi militia aligned to the SPLA says the government and its militias used heavy artillery and pursued them up to Majok. They claim these forces caused many civilians to flee before their advance and looted much property.

Police in Southern Sudan call for rehabilitation and underline the need for a department on foreigners

(*Rai AlShaab*) The general director for the Police, Lieutenant, Mahjoub Hassan Saeed express the readiness of the federal police to assist the Police in southern Sudan in any field particularly training.

The representative of the southern Sudan police, David Akweer, pointed out that among obstacles faced by the police in the south include a branch for the Civil Registry to cater for the rising demands as citizens seek papers of identification and for a department of immigrations in the southern Sudanese police to cater for the rising numbers of foreigners entering the country from those parts [*the paper does not say where or when the above took place*].

** Also see separate sheet on Editorials and Commentaries for commentaries on the GoSS*

Darfur

Minnawi calls on non-signatories to join the peace process

(*AlWihda*) Senior Presidential Aide Minni Minnawi has urged all commanders of the DPA non-signatory groups to join the peace process.

“I particularly mean those who didn’t sign the DPA to join peace so as to leave in a peaceful, unarmed, secure, settled, and promising Darfur under the peace umbrella. Minnawi stated in a press release yesterday.

He described his last visit to the Darfurs as a manifestation of the aspirations of the Darfurians for peace and unity and expressed thanks for the role played by the African Union and the international and humanitarian organizations in Darfur.

He promised to work hard until the dreams of the Darfurian for peace and security become a reality.

Authorities arrest head of “IDP and Refugee Voices” in S. Darfur

(Rai AlShaab) Authorities in S. Darfur arrested yesterday the head of the “IDP and Refugee Voices”.

Alaa-el-Deen Ibrahim Abubakar who is also the chairman of the Central Association for Darfur at the Omdurman Islamic University was arrested around mid-day yesterday at the eastern part of Nyala.

A colleague at the organisation pointed out that this is not the first time Mr. Alaa-el-Deen is being arrested. He pointed out that the security authorities do not produce justifiable reasons for the arrest and called on the President of the Republic to order his release.

Authorities in Eritrea arrest non-signatory SLM leader Abdul Wahid Mohammed Nur

(Rai AlShaab) Authorities in Eritrea arrested yesterday the SLM leader Abdul Wahid Mohammed Nur in Asmara Airport while he was departing Eritrea to Italy.

The SLM Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator Mr. Mohamed Abdulkareem said that the Eritrean Authorities have arrested Abdul Wahid when he was on the airplane board travelling to Rome and described the arrest as unexpected and a violation of international law.

He added that the SLM will present a memorandum of protest today to all Eritrean embassies and international organizations.

Darfur rebel group denies holding conference in Ethiopia

(SudanTribune.com – 12th Nov. London) The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) denied organizing its second general conference in the Ethiopian capital from 20 to 25 November. It accused the Sudanese security service of organizing this alleged conference.

A rebel source said Khartoum by holding this conference in Addis Ababa wants to create misunderstanding and division within the National Redemption Front (NRF), an alliance of rebel groups that rejected as inadequate a May peace accord signed in the Nigerian capital Abuja. Rebel sources asked how they can organize a meeting in Ethiopia which is a close ally to the ruling National congress Party while the JEM has no links with Addis Ababa.

Most of the NRF leaders are currently in Asmara for talks with the Eritrean officials who prepare a mediation to end Darfur crisis.

Analysts say by this move, Khartoum maybe wants to trouble the good relations between Eritrean authorities and NRF members.

The rebel group said in a press statement that the organizer of the meeting, Idris Ibrahim Azraq who was the spokesperson of the JEM, had been dismissed from the group since April 2006.

JEM will organize its conference inside Sudan in a rebel controlled area soon, said the press release.

Janjaweed accused of new Darfur killings

(AP – 12th Nov. **Cairo**) Pro-government militiamen launched new attacks in Sudan's volatile Darfur region that may have killed at least a dozen people, international observers said Sunday.

The NRF said some 300 Janjaweed militiamen on camels and horseback raided the West Darfur town of Sirba on Saturday, backed by 18 military vehicles.

"The attack resulted in 32 dead, 18 injured including women and children," the NRF said in a statement. The rebels said Janjaweed militias and elements from the regular Sudanese army burned about 100 houses and looted hundreds of heads of cattle.

A U.N. official in Darfur said the Janjaweed had looted several villages and a refugee camp in the past few days, reportedly killing about 12 people. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

African Union peacekeepers in Darfur said they were investigating the reports of fresh Janjaweed raids near Sirba.

The casualty figures from the rebels could not be independently verified, and Sudanese government officials were not immediately available to comment on the accusations.

Central African rebels claim capture of third town

(AP – 12th Nov. **Bangui**) Rebels in Central African Republic claimed Sunday they captured a third town in the north of the country, steadily expanding their territory in the face of little resistance from government troops.

Rebels seized Sam-Ouandja on Saturday, rebel spokesman Abakar Saboune told The Associated Press.

Government spokesman Cyriaque Gonda denied the claim, but an army major in the capital confirmed rebels were in control of Sam-Ouandja, adding that "no action was taken to dislodge them." The major declined to be named because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

Speaking from an undisclosed location, Saboune said some civilians had fled Sam-Ouandja despite a rebel appeal for people there to stay calm.

Saboune said his fighters had seized satellite telephones from local diamond mining companies in the area as a security precaution to prevent any communication with the capital, Bangui.