

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 14 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Darfur peace mediators meet regional initiatives countries in Eritrea

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 13 Nov. SIRTE, Libya) Darfur peace mediators will meet on Wednesday with regional peace partners to discuss progress made in the political process to end the four year conflict in western Sudan region of Darfur.

The UN's Jan Eliasson and the AU's Salim Ahmed Salim will hold the meeting in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, according to a press release issued today by the UN-AU Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST).

The regional peace initiative countries are Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and Libya. These countries work with the JMST to bridge difference between the non signatory rebel groups and facilitate their preparation on a common platform for renewed talks. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement is also involved in these efforts.

All newspapers quoted last report by UN Secretary General, UN SG renewed call for facilitating deployment of the hybrid force in Darfur

(*AlHayat*)The UN has renewed call for exerting intensive efforts to facilitate the deployment of the hybrid force in Darfur by end of next month, December. In this regard the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged in an official report the Sudanese Government to accept the list of the hybrid force which consists of 26,000 troops. The SG said the UN has not yet received pledges for provision of helicopters. He expressed concerns over the security incidents that took place last month in the Darfur region. A further delay in deployment means further deterioration in the security situation, he said.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Security Council rejects Kiir's request to address the Council

(*AlRai AlAam*) Informed sources told AlRai AlAam that the UN Security Council has rejected a request by the SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit to hold a special

session so that he can brief the Council on problems facing the implementation of the CPA. According to these sources, some member states consider holding such a session a contradiction with the UN Charter and may constitute a precedent. The sources informed that the US Administration has advised Kiir that it is important that the two CPA partners discuss and resolve conflict over all issues.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue statement today to clarify circumstances of visit by First Vice President to Washington, Government: MoFA requested that invitation comes from Cheney not Rice

(AlRai AlAam) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs began yesterday studying the reaction of the US Embassy in Khartoum as outlined in the statement it has issued on the visit of the FVP Kiir. In that statement the Embassy said the GoS was officially informed about the visit. The Embassy made this statement to comment on a statement by al Bashir in which he said the visit was coordinated by SPLM office without the Ministry of Foreign Affairs being informed. MoFA Spokesman Ali al Sadiq said to AlRai AlAam the Ministry will clarify today the circumstances of Salva Kiir's visit to Washington.

(AlSahafa) A GoS official admitted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was informed by the US Embassy on the visit. However, he said the GoS demanded that the invitation has to come from Vice President Cheney, not from the Secretary of State Rice.

SPLM gives NCP 45 days to resolve pending issues

(Rai AlShaab) The SPLM has given the NCP a period of 45 days to resolve all pending issues. It said without resolving the pending issues the SPLM Ministers will not return to the government. SPLM said if the Government does resolve these issues the SPLM may ask its MPs to suspend their work in the National Assembly

SPLM office: Salva in the US as GoSS President

(AlRai AlAam) SPLM Deputy Chairman and Political Affairs Officer in Washington Robert Marial said Salva Kiir is visiting the US in his capacity as the GoSS President. He refuted reports on lack of coordination between SPLM office and the Sudanese Embassy in Washington.

SPLM leaders' conflicting statements unhelpful to CPA, NCP

(Sudan Vision) The National Congress Party (NCP) has repudiated SPLM description of the six-member committee between the two parties as a public relations mechanism since the SPLM is a party to that committee and one of its founders.

Presidential Advisor and head of NCP bloc in the National Assembly, Dr. Ghazi Salah Uddin, said the description is regrettable and further raises doubts on the seriousness of the decision previously made for establishing the mechanism.

Dr. Ghazi told reporters yesterday that the formation of a committee out of the representatives of the two partners in the National Assembly to transcend the current

standoff is unlikely because the six-member committee has been agreed upon at the level of the Presidency of the Republic. He stressed that dialogue between the Assembly representatives of the two parties is ongoing, adding that the representatives of the two blocs constantly communicate with each other regardless of events taking place outside the Assembly precincts.

Dr. Ghazi reiterated that the conflicting statements of SPLM leaders will in no way help the agreement added to the fact that they have not been made at the appropriate venues, underlining NCP commitment to the agreement and the mechanisms it has stipulated as well as the agreement made with Salva Kiir before he left for Washington.

US President to meet Southern Sudan leader on Thursday

(Sudan Tribune.com – 13 Nov. WASHINGTON) US President George W. Bush will meet with South Sudan leader, Salva Kiir, on Thursday November 15 for talks focused on the shaky peace implementation and ways to end violence in Darfur, the White House said Tuesday.

Salva Kiir who visits the United States since one week delayed his return to Sudan to discuss a series of proposals suggested by the US Administration related to surmount the current impasse on the issue of Abyei.

SAF bill consistent with today's spirit: SPLM MPs leader Manawa

(Khartoum Monitor) Head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement members of the National Assembly, Manawa Aligo Donga said the Sudanese Armed Forces Law bill relates to SAF within Northern territories as stipulated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement .

Those who objected to the bill missed the point that the word “religiosity” in the bill as well as some penalties deriving from Islamic Sharia Law are also set out in the CPA and the Interim Constitution., he added.

Manawa stated that the law bill is consistent with the spirit of the day as it outlaws attacks on civilians; and also prohibits crimes against humanity, as well as genocide and forced displacement of the population.

Grim prospect unless two parties settle dispute: al-Mahdi

(Khartoum Monitor) Al Sadiq AlMahdi said the present erosion of the political and constitutional structures created by the peace agreement will lead to either adoption of radical solution by one of the two parties to the agreement or the parties which are not non signatory to the agreement to come up with a political move that draws popular support to rescue the system from collapsing.

He said neighboring countries may exploit the situation. Not only that but some influential power may intervene with more viable alternatives to prevent the collapse of the situation, he added.

A Mahdi urged the National Congress Party and the Sudan People`s Libration Movement to meet in order to break the deadlock or otherwise the prospect will be a showdown” he said.

Governor of South Darfur expels the OCHA Head Officer, UN RHC

(Khartoum Monitor) UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator media officer Imad Hassanien told Khartoum Monitor yesterday that according to statement by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, following the decision of the Governor of south Darfur to expel the OCHA Head of Office; I have raised the issue over the past few days through existing official channels in Khartoum. Both the Government and the UN agreed that international mechanisms would be used to further interview the matter.

The Coordinator explained “I was thus extremely disappointed to find that 12 allegations against the staff member, compiled by the Governor of south Darfur and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) were published in the media yesterday. These allegations are extremely serious and contravene the agreement made with OCHA that these discussions would remain internal. He stressed that the UN would like to reiterate its full support for the UN staff member and to emphasize that international humanitarian principals and laws bind all humanitarian workers of the UN.

SPLM, NCP form Blue Nile Government

(The Citizen) The Blue Nile Government was formed yesterday from the National Congress Party and the Sudan People`s Libration Movement. The former finance minister Zaid Mohamed was named minister of agriculture, Babker Mohamed was named the minister of social and cultural affairs, Mohamed Younis is governor of Al Rusairis, Ali Morjan is governor of Al Kurmuk, according to the federal Minister of Information and telecommunication Farah Agar.

Banks body want talks on Islamic banks in southern Sudan

(Sudan Tribune.com – 13 Nov. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese Bankers Association (SBA) called for talks with the concerned parties on the future of the Islamic banks in southern Sudan in order to reach an agreement to maintain their presence there.

Last April Othom Rago Ajak, Director for Banking at the government’s Bank of Southern Sudan indicated that Islamic banks operating in southern Sudan must either convert to conventional banking or leave.

According to the southern Sudan official the 2005 peace deal says the south will have its own conventional banking system, in parallel with the Islamic banking system operating in the mainly Muslim north.

However, the head of the SBA, Hatim al-Zubair, told AIRay Alam that the CPA stipulates the existence of the two systems in the country and through negotiations parties can find a solution.

Sudan: Ruling party says "fully" committed to peace pact

(BBC Mon) -- Sudanese radio The National Congress Party has issued a communique in which it reiterated its full commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA], all pacts and legal instruments.

It also asserted its moral, constitutional and political commitment to the implementation of the CPA to consolidate peace, stability, the country's unity and the prosperity of the nation.

The statement pointed out that the SPLM leadership's keenness to escalate the issue in the media and at international platforms did not reveal any good intention, nor did it show the will to overcome the conflict in the political and executive partnership, which resulted from the SPLM's sudden decision to suspend its participation in the Council of Ministers.

GoSS

Southern Sudan party seeks separation to achieve permanent peace

(Sudan Tribune.com – 13 Nov. KHARTOUM) The chairman of United South Sudan Party (USSP), Clement Juma Mbugoniwia, has said his party stands for separation of south from north to achieve permanent peace.

In a press conference held in Khartoum to announce the activities of the USSP, Mbugoniwia said that the USSP aspire to achieve the independence of southern Sudan, saying a united Sudan is a "fallacy" and "not workable".

He urged the National Congress Party to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). However the USSP blamed the lack of progress on the partners to the CPA (the NCP and the SPLM) as well as the international community that helped to broker this valuable agreement.

World Bank commends GoSS efforts on combating corruption

(AlSudani) GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs Luka Biong said the meeting of the FVP and GoSS President with the President of the World Bank Robert Zoleik was fruitful. He said the President of the Bank has issued instructions to speed up the process of implementing programmes funded by the Donors Fund. The President of the Bank has pledged also to support development projects in Sudan especially in the war-affected areas such as South Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile. Zoleik promised to support the GoSS efforts on assuring transparency and combat of corruption.

South Sudan Churches hold ecumenical prayers for peace

(Sudan Tribune.com – 13 Nov. JUBA) Christians of different churches and traditions gathered in Juba for an ecumenical prayer for peace on Sunday. Representatives from Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Evangelical and African Independent Churches prayed together for peace at All Saints Cathedral.

The sermon was delivered by the Catholic Archbishop of Juba, Paolino Lukudu Loro. "It is more difficult to rebuild than to destroy, and we prayed that the beginning of peace should be achieved. That has been achieved. Now we need to rebuild this peace", he said. *Read more:* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24737>

Lawmakers slam killings by rogue JIUs in Yambio

(The Citizen) Southern Sudan legislative assembly Tuesday subjected the Yambio, massacre that had seen three high ranking police officers killed to the committee of security and public order.

Peter Bashir Chandi, the chairperson of the committee of information and culture, told reporters Tuesday that parliament had condemned the illegal killings surrounding the territories of southern Sudan since January this year. He said the committee would figure out how to promote the culture of peace in the region.

Another separatist party formed

(The Citizen) The United South Sudan Party was inaugurated yesterday at Sudanese Media Centre SMC, where its chairman, Celment Juma, said that the objective of this party is to promote democracy and not to advocate for any war.

"Today I am announcing the activities of our party, the United South Sudan Party (USSP), here in Kartoum State" he said. Juma said that they want a south Sudan that will be built on democratic principles with respect for the rule of law; human rights, and zero tolerance on tribalism, nepotism, corruption and abuse of power.

Southern Sudan, Egypt sign agreement to build power stations

(BBC Mon) -- *Sudan Radio Service* Southern Sudan and Egypt have signed an agreement to construct power stations in Wau, Bor, Rumbek, Yei, and Yambio counties. Speaking to Sudan Radio Service in Nairobi last week, the Government of Southern Sudan's representative to Egypt and Arab countries, Mr Parmena Makuac, said that the agreement is part of an effort to strengthen bilateral relations between Egypt and southern Sudan.

Mr Makuac also commended Egypt for its contributions to developing the health sector in southern Sudan. As evidence, he said that a new complete health complex will be opened this month in Juba, adding that its equipment and doctors have all been provided by Egypt. Mr Makuac says that patients will be treated for free at the complex.

He also said that the Egyptian government has offered about 3.6m dollars to build three new referral hospitals in southern Sudan.

Sudan: Ex-rebel soldiers redeployed in southern state

(BBC Mon) -- *Sudan Radio Service* One hundred eighteen SPLA soldiers attached to the Joint Integrated Unit in Yambio [Western Equatoria State] have been disarmed and redeployed to Maridi.

Western Equatoria state Deputy Governor Joseph Ngere says the transfer of the JIU soldiers from Yambio to Maridi was done to make it easier for authorities to investigate the alleged killing of three senior police officers by JIU soldiers in Yambio two weeks ago.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service by phone from Yambio, Mr Ngere said state authorities have arrested several people in connection to the case.

[Ngere] In addition to the two commanders of the JIU and his MI, we have now apprehended about 18 more prime suspects and now they are actually in custody.

He thanked the people of Western Equatoria for behaving in what he called "a responsible manner" by not taking the law into their hands. He said state authorities will follow the investigation closely to ensure that those found to be responsible for the killings of the three senior police officers face justice.

Darfur

Irish FM to visit Sudan, Chad for Darfur troops deployment

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 13 Nov. DUBLIN, Ireland) Ireland's foreign minister departed Tuesday for a three-day visit to Sudan and Chad, where he planned to inspect border refugee camps in advance of deployment of two United Nations-mandated peacekeeping forces in the region.

Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern said he would travel overnight to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and meets a government delegation Wednesday led by Foreign Minister Ali Karti, Second Vice President Ali Osman and presidential assistant Nafie el Nafie, Sudan's chief negotiator on Darfur.

He said Ireland would donate €500,000 (US\$730,000) to a United Nations fund supporting multi-factional negotiations on Darfur's future. These talks, under joint U.N.-African Union stewardship, are scheduled to resume next month in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

Ahern said he intended to impress on Sudan the need to hasten, not hinder, U.N. plans to deploy peacekeeping forces within Darfur itself. This 26,000-member, largely African force — named UNAMID, or the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur — is supposed to take control of the region by the end of the year. *Read more:* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24736>

Darfur rebels free kidnapped oil workers

(*Sudan Tribune.com* — 12 Nov. KHARTOUM) A Darfur rebel group on Monday freed five workers, including two foreigners, taken hostage in a rare attack on a Sudanese oil installation almost three weeks ago. "We handed them over to tribal chiefs this morning who will pass them on to the International Committee of the Red Cross," Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) commander Abdelaziz el-Nur Ashr said.

He said that the men — an Egyptian, an Iraqi and three Sudanese — were given to tribal chiefs in the town of Majlad in western Kordofan, near the war-ravaged region of Darfur. Ashr said earlier this month that JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim had given instructions for the hostages to be freed, following a request from the Egyptian government.

The five were abducted in an attack on a Kordofan oil field on October 23 and the two foreigners named as engineers Ahmed Heyman Mohammed from Iraq and Joseph William Samuel of Egypt. *Read more:* <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article24728>

JEM Hands over Memo to AU – UN Mediators Includes Vision on Sirt Talks

(*smc*) Political and field commanders from JEM handed yesterday memoranda to AU and UN mediators containing their vision for the upcoming round of peace talks for Darfur scheduled in Libya town of Sirt. A reliable source told (*smc*) the majority of JEM political and military leadership are likely support participation in Sirt talks.

In the same development the government welcomes with precaution UN secretary general representative for peace in Sudan Yan Elisson announcement of holding Darfur rebels reunion conference in Juba by the beginning of next December.

Sirte Closed-Door Talks on Darfur Peace Discus Fundamental Issues

(*smc*) A closed-door meeting on Darfur took place in the Libyan town of Sirte between the government delegation, the rebel movements and mediators from the AU and UN. UN and AU spokesman for the Sirte peace talks on Darfur, George Ulla Difyas (George Ola Davies) the closed-door meetings focused on fundamental issues of power, wealth-sharing, security and humanitarian affairs. He said heated debates ran by participants representing all parties on the respective issues through out the past week.

Crime in Northern Darfur Declines to 8% from Total of 17.5%

(*smc*) Crime rate in northern Darfur state declined during the first half of the current year comparable to the past three years. Reported cases during 2004 when the struggle was at its peak were 36222 declined to 275 cases only. An official report from the state government showed that deliberate killing cases amounted to 46 comparable to 194 in 2004.

Robbery cases declined to 114 from 2763 total cases, fighting cases declined to 31 from a total of 462 cases. Rape crimes from 57 in 2004 to 15 cases in 2007 and looting of cars declined to 16 cases from a total of 127 cases in 2007. In over all according to the report the crime in the state declined to 8% in 2007 from a proportion of 17.5% in the past three years.

South Darfur is Epidemic Free State / Say Local Authorities

(*smc*) Northern Darfur state health authorities confirm health stability in the state including IDPS camps. Manager of ministry of health in the state Dr. Khadiga Musa told (*smc*) that no epidemic cases reported at any part across the state. She noted that

her ministry works in coordination with international organizations on issues related to health situation. She explained that emergency drugs are distributed regularly to hospitals and rural areas health centers free of charge.

US Embassy Advisor Visits Northern Darfur

(*smc*)US embassy to Sudan advisor Emay Hini started a visit today to south Darfur state. She said her visit to the state aims at seeing the humanitarian situation there on the ground and discusses some issues with the government of notional unity particularly matters related to social affairs.

She said her government is concern about supporting IDPS camps and providing other services to the area, particularly areas that witnessing voluntary repatriation. The US diplomat noted that US administration is concern to encourage Darfur rebels attend Sirte peaceful talks for the region of western Darfur.

Insecurity persists in Darfur despite Sudan government cease-fire - aid workers

(*BBC Mon*) -- *IRIN* A unilateral cease-fire announced by Khartoum in late October has failed to improve security in Darfur, where armed groups continue to do battle, according to humanitarian and civil society officials.

"Conditions on the ground remain the same; there is a lot of insecurity," an aid worker, who requested anonymity, told *IRIN*. "Reports of attacks continue, even carjacking has occurred, although there has been no drastic deterioration."

However, the source said most of the fighting had been between communities, rather than mounted by government forces against the various rebel movements active in Darfur. North Darfur has been relatively calm and most of the incidents have occurred in South Darfur, another humanitarian source added.