

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 19 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Taye Zerihoun and Sam Ibok to arrive in Juba today (AlAyam)

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- Kiir addresses public rally today in Juba, SPLM leaders to Juba (AlRai AlAam), Kiir invites crisis management committee for a meeting in Juba (AlSahafa)
- 1.5 million IDPs returned to south, 28% want to stay in the north (AlSahafa)
- Five oil workers abducted in South Kordofan released (AlSahafa)
- SPLM: Situation requires low profile handling, NCP and Umma agree to deal internally with the NCP-SPLM crisis (AlRai AlAam)
- Sudanese Popular Organization for Public Freedoms launched (AlRai AlAam)
- Cabinet approves financial support for demining programme (Khartoum Monitor)
- Cabinet reviews rift valley fever status (Khartoum Monitor)
- The response to war: Article by Alfred Taban (Khartoum Monitor)
- Parties gang against Bashir's call to mujahideen (The Citizen)
- Kiir jets into Juba today (The Citizen)
- East to be free of landmines in three years (The Citizen)
- Sudan rejects Chad's handover of Zoe's Ark's accused staff to France (Sudan Vision)
- ICC prosecutor says UN Security Council must force Sudan to cooperate (ST)
- Sudanese clerics clear sacrifice of sick animals (ST)
- Sudan formally charges opposition leaders with coup attempt (ST)
- Khartoum North Court detains Irwa, Madani for failure to settle judicial fine (Sudan Vision), Sudanese journalist face prison for libel (ST)

➤ GoSS

- Amum: State of alert declared in South Sudan following al Bashir's orders on opening PDF camps (Akhbar AlYom)

- Military coordination between SPLM and Darfur rebels (AlIntibaha)

➤ **Darfur**

- Eliasson: New consignment of arms in IDP camps (AlRai AlAam)
- US pushes African and Middle East countries to contribute to Darfur force (ST)
- Darfur rebel group says Bashir statements "declaration of war" (ST)
- Darfur rebel leader condemns Sudanese president calls for war (ST)

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Taye Zerihoun and Sam Ibok to arrive in Juba today

(AlAyam), The UN and AU senior negotiators Taye Zerihoun and Sam Ibok will arrive today in Juba to hold talks with Darfur rebel factions meeting in Juba and discuss prospects of their participation in the Sirte peace talks in December. Ambassador Sam Ibok said to AlAyam that they will discuss with the rebel movements progress in efforts to unite themselves and their participation in the talks.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Kiir addresses public rally today in Juba, SPLM leaders to Juba, Kiir invite crisis management committee for a meeting in Juba

(ST, AlRai AlAam, AlSahafa), November 18, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Salva Kiir, vice president of Sudan and president of the southern Sudan administration, will convene a crisis meeting with senior members of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) cabinet in Juba today according to press reports.

The daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat quoted Yasir Arman, deputy SPLM secretary general, as saying that the meeting will be “important and decisive”. The meeting is expected to include the Governor of Blue Nile State Malik Agar, Pagan Amum, the SPLM Secretary General, minister of transport Kowal Mayang as well as Arman.

The meeting comes in light of the statements by Sudan’s President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir in which he warned the SPLM that he is prepared to go to war if necessary and ordered the mobilization of the paramilitary forces created to fight the former

southern rebels. Al-Bashir also reiterated his rejection to Abyei commission report and said that the oil region will never be part of the South.

Arman said that the SPLM's final position on various issues pertaining to the Comprehensive Peace agreement shall be clear today. "The crisis between the National Congress Party (NCP) is at a critical stage; either we are at the footsteps of a resolution or a new escalation" he added.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said that president Omer al-Bashir and his first vice-president, Salva Kiir will meet on Monday. It is not clear if the meeting will actually take place.

Kiir is expected to address graduates of prison guards on Tuesday in Juba.

1.5 million IDPs returned to south, 28% want to stay in the north

(AlSahafa), The Acting Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, said the next phase of the return of the southern IDPs and refugees to their home areas will start at the beginning of December 2007. He said 1.5 million out of 5.4 million IDPs in the north have returned home in addition to 500,000 refugees from the neighboring countries. The Minister revealed that a survey conducted by his Ministry indicated that 62% of the IDPs have shown interest in returning to their homelands while 28% said they would remain in the north.

Five oil workers abducted in South Kordofan released

(AlSahafa), The five oil workers who were abducted by an armed group from Difra oilfield in south Kordofan have yesterday been released. The Egyptian Consul to Khartoum Ayman Badi has confirmed to AlSahafa correspondent in Cairo reports on releasing the five abductees (3 Sudanese, an Iraqi and an Egyptian).

SPLM: Situation requires low profile handling; NCP and Umma agree to deal internally with the NCP-SPLM crisis

(AlRai AlAam), An informed SPLM source said The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir will address today a public gathering in Juba. Though Kiir may comment on Al Bashir's last speech at the PDF celebration, today's public gathering was scheduled earlier, i.e. it is not organized in reaction to al Bashir's statement. The SPLM source warned of escalating the situation as it requires special handling so that the two parties can reach a settlement.

The Secretary General of the opposition Umma Party Abdelnabi Ali Ahmed, who met yesterday with Presidential Adviser and NCP leader, Mustafa Osman Ismail, said they have agreed that the NCP-SPLM crisis is a national crisis which needs to be contained by all political forces. The two parties, he said, have agreed to deal with and resolve this crisis internally by the Sudanese people.

Sudanese Popular Organization for Public Freedoms launched

(AlRai AlAam), The Sudanese political parties and civil society organizations announced yesterday at Headquarters of the opposition Umma Party establishing The Sudanese Popular Organization for Public Freedoms. The Organization will protect the public freedoms and rights and stand against violating them.

Cabinet approves financial support for demining programme

(Khartoum Monitor), The Cabinet approved yesterday the continuation of financial support to the demining programme and promotion of its centers. The State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, presented a report on the progress of mines clearance in Eastern Sudan. It is worth mentioning that the National Demining body stated in the first half of this year, to clear mines along Babanousa-Wau road, and last week, Digna 1 demining programme was launched in Hamashkoreib, Eastern Sudan.

Cabinet reviews rift valley fever status

(Khartoum Monitor), The cabinet directed the concerned bodies to sensitize people about the hazard of the Rift Valley Fever. The four suspected cases are making improvement and no human deaths have been documented, said the Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries while presenting a report to the cabinet about the (RVF) incidence.

The response to war: Article by Alfred Taban

(Khartoum Monitor), The response of the SPLM, SPLA, GoSS, the southern Sudanese and the other marginalized people of Sudan to Field Marshal Omer al Bashir's threat to drag the country back to war by among other things, opening more PDF training camps and mobilizing the mujahideen (holy warriors) should be calculated.

The option of war should not be contemplated now. A number of measures must, however, be pursued in response to Bashir's threat of military action against opponents, the marginalized majority of this country. One is to strengthen the capacity of the SPLA, in order to raise the cost for the NCP to wage war. The other option should be mostly political. Bashir's talk about shredding Abyei experts binding and final report is an unbelievable violation of the CPA. The SPLM should take this case to the IGAD, the US, the EU and the AU, who are guarantors of the CPA.

Parties gang against Bashir's call to mujahideen

(The Citizen), North Sudan political parties yesterday ganged against remarks by president Omer al Bashir's call to mujahideen to get ready for war and open training camps across Sudan.

Hassan al Turabi called the president's remarks irresponsible; and the people should reject them.

And the Sudanese Communist Party leader Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud said the NCP wanted to disavow the CPA.

Kiir jets into Juba today

(The Citizen), GoSS president Salva Kiir arrives in Juba early today. The president, who has been away for two weeks on a visit to the US, is expected to address the Southern Sudan Parliament.

According to a source, the president would brief the Southern Sudan Council of Ministers on his visit to the US.

East to be free of landmines in three years

(The Citizen), In its session yesterday, Council of Ministers, headed by president al Bashir, listened to a report submitted by the Deputy Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, about the landmines maps in eastern Sudan.

In his report the Minister said the eastern Sudan would be free of landmines within three years or less.

Sudan rejects Chad's handover of Zoe's Ark's accused staff to France

(Sudan Vision), By: Zulikha Abdel Razig – SMC, At its meeting with international officials in Geneva, Sudan's delegation said it will oppose any move by Chad to hand over the staff of Zoe's Ark to France involved in the abduction of Darfurian children. Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, Hasabo Mohammed Abdelrahman, said justice cannot be guaranteed if the crime is tried outside the region in which it had been committed.

"There are pressures for transferring the rest of the accused from Chadian courts to Paris which will not be just. We consider that Chadian authorities should continue their hearing of the case," he added,

After his visit to Sudan, the High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs, Gregg Johnston, described the French organization's felony as totally unacceptable. He remarked that investigations made by several persons have not revealed any previous similar crimes committed by Zoe's Ark.

"We have to wait for the results of the investigations to ascertain whether this was the first time or not," Johnston was quoted as having stated.

Meanwhile, Darfur Organizations Network said it has formed a defence board out of Sudanese lawyers to initiate proceedings against France and some international organizations involved in the child trafficking case in Darfur and Chad.

The head of Darfur Organizations Network, Hassan Bargo, told reporters at the press conference he held yesterday that France, as a state, is involved in the child trafficking operation after its Premier has withdrawn a number of persons involved in the case following his visit to Chad. Bargo further downplayed the French Premier's talk of withdrawing the other subordinates of Zoe's Ark accused in the crime under the consideration that they are French nationals.

Bargo revealed that other international organizations operating in Darfur have been involved in child abduction cases.

"This wasn't the first crime to be committed in this connection, but it was the first to be discovered," Bargo said.

He stated that 25% of the children snatched in Chad were Sudanese, adding that they have obtained information on contacts made with families and individuals who are planned to be dispatched to western countries and converted to Christianity to be enemies to their home country in the future. He further loaded Chad with responsibility for public rights, stressing that Darfur Organizations will be responsible for private rights in the case..

Bargo described the Arab Conference held recently in Khartoum in support of humanitarian conditions in Darfur as an inlet to taking note of the activities of dubious organizations working in Darfur, underlining that the Conference has illustrated to the world at large that humanitarian work is the responsibility of national and not foreign organizations.

Six of Zoe's Ark staff are still in Chad after being arrested in eastern Chad on 25 October 2007 for attempting to abduct children.

ICC prosecutor says UN Security Council must force Sudan to cooperate

(ST), By: Wasil Ali, November 18, 2007 (CAIRO) — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said that he wants the UN Security Council (UNSC) to force Sudan into cooperating with the world court.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo told reporters in Cairo after meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit that he is not seeking to have the UNSC impose sanctions on Sudan.

Ocampo will brief the UNSC early December on the progress of his investigations in Darfur. He is expected to notify the council that Sudan is not cooperating per resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

Last month Ocampo criticized the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for neglecting the issue of justice in his monthly reports on Sudan.

(ST)

Sudanese clerics clear sacrifice of sick animals

(ST), November 18, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Clerics have given Sudanese Muslims the all-clear to sacrifice animals infected by a Rift Valley Fever outbreak in coming festivities, local media reported on Sunday.

Religious scholars have now ruled that animals suspected of having the disease will still be acceptable sacrifices for the major Muslim festival of Eid ul-Adha, daily newspaper Akhir Lahzah reported.

The Board of Sudanese Religious Scholars ruled that Muslims were only banned from sacrificing animals with a disease mentioned in the Hadith, a collection of the sayings of the Prophet, the paper said.

Eid ul-Adha, which celebrates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, falls this year on Dec 20.

(Reuters)

Sudan formally charges opposition leaders with coup attempt

(ST), By Wasil Ali, November 18, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudanese government formally charged 28 jailed opposition leaders for the first time in four months according to press reports.

The charges included planning for a war against the nation, undertaking terrorist activity, planning to overthrow the government, the creation of camps for military training

The Sudanese justice minister Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi said that the detainees will be prosecuted before court very shortly.

Sudanese security services arrested Mubarak al-Fadil, leader of the Umma Reform and Renewal opposition party mid-July over allegations of planning a coup attempt.

The former presidential assistant was arrested along with a number of retired army generals, including retired general Mohamed Ali Hamid, who worked as deputy director of security in the late eighties, as well as former minister of tourism, Abdeljalil al-Basha.

Sudan also arrested Ali Mahmoud Hassanein, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in connection with the alleged coup attempt.

Khartoum North Court detains Irwa, Madani for failure to settle judicial fine (Sudan Vision), Sudanese journalist face prison for libel

(ST), November 18, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Two Sudanese journalists have been convicted of publishing an article criticising security services for detaining four other journalists, their colleagues said on Sunday.

Al-Fatih Mahjoub Irwaha, editor in chief of Arabic daily Al-Sudani, and his deputy and columnist Nurelden Madini, are facing two months in prison after refusing to pay a fine for defamation, staff at the newspaper said.

Sudan's National Intelligence Service said it had been libelled by the paper.

The Al-Sudani article discussed the detention of four other writers who were covering protests about the Kajbar dam project in northern Sudan in July.

Al-Sudani's news editor Yasser Abdalah criticised the court's decision saying it would "undermine journalism and obstruct our work".

The head of the Sudanese Journalist Union, Muhi Elden Tetawi, said he had been informed about the case and was now trying to persuade the two journalists to pay their fines of 10,000 Sudanese pounds (\$5,000) each.

The two journalists, who appeared in court on Sunday, refused to pay the fine, saying they would rather be imprisoned, family members told Reuters. They added the court sent the two to prison for two days to give them time to reconsider.

No one was immediately available for comment from Sudan's Justice Ministry.

(Reuters)

GoSS

Amum: State of alert declared in South Sudan following al Bashir's orders on opening PDF camps

(Akhbar AlYom), The SPLM Secretary Pagan Amum said in his comments at Akhbar AlYom Forum yesterday, the a state of alert and mobilization has been declared in South Sudan in reaction to president al Bashir's orders on opening the PDF training camps and the gathering of the mujahideen. He said SPLM will withdraw completely from GoNU by end of December if the NCP did not resolve the pending issues.

Military coordination between SPLM and Darfur rebels

(AlIntibaha), Informed sources told AlIntibaha that camps have been opened in Warwar, Kwajok, Bissailia, Warap and Tonj areas in Bahr al Ghazal to train the Darfurians. The sources hinted the SPLA will coordinate with the military factions of the Darfur rebel groups.

Darfur

Eliasson: New consignment of arms in IDP camps

(AlRai AlAam), The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, said has not seen personally any role for Al Qaeda in Darfur IDP camps. However, he admitted that new consignments of arms are delivered to the camps.

US pushes African and Middle East countries to contribute to Darfur force

(ST), November 18, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The US administration began high level contacts with countries in Africa and the Middle East to contribute soldiers and resources to the Darfur peacekeeping force according to a leading columnist in Washington.

Jim Hoagland a columnist at the Washington Post said in article published over the weekend that “principal members of Bush’s National Security Council met Nov. 9 and decided — finally — to press America’s allies in Africa and the Middle East at the highest levels of government to contribute soldiers and materiel to the force”.

“Washington now wonders if Ban has erred in investing much of his first year in office in coaxing the Sudanese rulers into pointless meetings and commitments that they gradually undo” Hoagland said.

Yesterday the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir reiterated his rejection of Western troops and others in Darfur peacekeeping force.

"The boots of those who blasphemed the prophet Muhammad would never trample on Sudanese land" Al-Bashir told the crowd at the Wad-Medani Stadium (Al-Jazeera State), some 200 miles south of Khartoum, celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF).

Darfur rebel group says Bashir statements "declaration of war"

(ST), November 18, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A Darfur rebel faction said Sunday that a call by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to reopen auxiliary training camps was "a declaration of war" and that it was putting its troops on high alert.

"The Sudan Liberation Movement-Unity decrees a state of maximum alert for its troops following the Sudanese president’s declarations about opening popular defense force training camps," the SLM-Unity said in a statement.

"We take this decision as a declaration of all-out war in Sudan," it said the day after al-Bashir ordered the reopening of auxiliary training camps to prepare for war amid an ongoing crisis with southern former rebels.

"We order the legitimate sons of the people to open their camps... not to declare war but to be ready," al-Bashir said in a speech marking 18 years of the popular defense forces unit linked to his political party.

The SLM-Unity "warns the Sudanese government against opening training camps in Darfur and says it will consider them as military targets," the statement said.

(AFP)

Darfur rebel leader condemns Sudanese president calls for war

(ST), November 18, 2007 (PARIS) — A Darfur rebel leader condemned today statements made by Sudanese president ordering to open paramilitary forces camps to train recruits. He further appealed on Sudanese youth not to be fooled by Bashir's calls for war.

Abdelwahid al-Nur, the leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement, slammed statements by Omer al-Bashir at celebrations organised by the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) on Saturday in Medani to reopen training camps for a paramilitary force used during the north-south war.

Al-Nur, who demands to stop Darfur violence before talks, said "While we appeal for conflict suspension in the country to engage peace talks, president Bashir comes with a new call for "conflict escalation".

"This government is fed by the blood of the people, and I want to call Sudanese and young people particularly to not listen to these bellicose calls because we need them to reconstruct the country, to build peace in a secular and democratic state;" he added.

He declared his support for the SPLM demand for the full implementation of a peace deal signed between the government of the National Congress Party and the former southern Sudan rebels in January 2005.

"The full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, is a legitimate demand for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)"

REJECTION OF THE CHINESE TROOPS IN DARFUR

The SLM founder also denounced Sudanese president rejection of troops from Norway and Sweden to replace Chinese and Pakistanis troops to be deployed in Darfur within the framework of AU-UN forces.

Al-Nur rejected the deployment of Chinese forces in the war-torn region of Darfur.

The rebel leader further said that weapons used by the Sudanese army and its militias in Darfur are provided by China. Adding if these weapons are bought from other countries they are paid by the money of oil extracted by Chinese firms.

"The killer can not be protector. This is way we consider China part of the problem and we reject its troops in Darfur." He said.

(ST)