

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 27 November 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Sudan expresses reservations on elements of UNAMID proposed budget (ST)

November 26, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The Sudanese government objected to portions of the report on the proposed budget for the Darfur hybrid force to be deployed early 2008.

Sudan's envoy to the UN Abdel-Haleem Abdel-Mahmood said that some items in the budget report appear to be violating the spirit of resolution 1769.

“Some things in the budget report can be rephrased to be consistent with the frameworks so that they don't give the impression that they are bypassing the works of the local and federal authorities” he said in prepared remarks before the general assembly session reviewing the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

However the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said in his latest report that several obstacles stand in the way of a speedy deployment including the land needed for the construction of UNAMID headquarters in Darfur. The Sudanese government has yet to assign the land for the hybrid force.

The other issue pending is Sudan's approval on a list of troop donor countries for the Darfur force. At Sudan's request the UN resolution called for a force with a "predominantly African character" but stressed the need for "a force which could effectively implement the mandate set out in resolution 1769".

The Sudanese envoy said that his government would like to see the proposed structure of UNAMID to "reflect the continuous channels of cooperation with the UN".

Abdel-Mahmood said that his government does not see why only 4 of the 544 UN volunteers proposed should be non-Sudanese nationals.

"Accommodating a larger number of Sudanese volunteers is possible in a country with a population of 40 million people" he added.

The Sudanese diplomat reiterated his objection to awarding the American defense contractor Lockheed Martin for the hybrid force infrastructure without soliciting a formal bid per UN rules.

Abdel-Mahmood alleged that Lockheed Martin may not even be technically qualified for the contract. He further said that contact between the UN and Lockheed Martin took place before resolution 1769.

UN officials said that the contract was awarded to the US Company due to "limited window of opportunity to tender a construction package". The UN triggered financial rule 105.16 which allow the UN Secretariat "to waive formal methods of solicitation in the best interest of the UN".

The Sudanese envoy also complained that leadership positions in the UNAMID are not equitably distributed between the UN and African Union.

He called on the UN Secretariat to provide clarification on that aspect and to realize that the UNAMID has to have an African character in the positions filled as well.

The UN Security Council will discuss a report on the progress of the UNAMID tomorrow.

(ST)

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[Kiir tells southerners not to sell votes for forced unity of Sudan \(ST\)](#)

November 26, 2007 (JUBA) — Sudan People's Liberation Movement leader on Sunday November 25 has warned southern Sudanese to not sale their votes for forced unity; he further said that already money is pouring in the south to buy their vote for unity.

The President of the government of Southern Sudan who is also the First Vice President of the republic, Salva Kiir Mayardit cautioned people to be careful because money has already been poured here to buy their vote for unity.

"My advice is that if you are given money take it but vote for what southern Sudanese stood and fought for even Sudan became independent on January 1st 1956, besides nobody will take you to court for having taken bribery money;" reassured Kiir.

"It is peace that we are interested in and indeed we negotiated for it while holding on our guns and delivered it to you the citizen of southern Sudan through the signing of the CPA on January 9th 2005, therefore our mission as fighters is accomplished;" Kiir said.

He added that what remains is the responsibility of the citizens of Southern Sudan including other marginalized Sudanese to embrace and protect the CPA up to time when Southerners would have to decide either to remain in a united Sudan or form a new Independent South Sudan through the forthcoming referendum to be held in 2011 "so the choices are yours but do not sell your vote for forced unity" Kiir said.

Mayardit was speaking at St. Theresa Cathedral Kator at ceremony to mark the enrolment of 205 new YCS members drawn from Supiri, Juba Girl, Juba Commercial, Juba Day, Comboni and Juba Technical secondary schools in Juba after they expressed willingness to save their fellow students at any time with words of the Lord as commanded by Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.

He hailed the masses of Juba for their warm and historical reception during his recent return from USA via Kenya where he updated the international community particularly those who assisted in realization of the CPA on why SPLM has suspended its participation in the government of national unity in Khartoum. He described his visit as a successful peace mission.

Kiir denied allegations by NCP members that he has gone to USA in order to conspire against the government in which he is the First Vice President. He said those speculating such baseless rumors as the real enemy of peace in Sudan.

Salva Kiir Mayardit reiterated that southern Sudanese under his leadership will not go back to war again. However, if attacked, southerners have the right to defend themselves, he declared.

"I do not want us, southern Sudanese and the marginalized Sudanese, to nurse the idea that SPLM/A under my leadership will take people back to war, never again. Instead I urge all of us to exert more efforts in consolidating CPA and to ensure its full implementation to the letter and spirit", reassured Kiir.

President Kiir disclosed that in the coming weeks he will travel to Khartoum to discuss and find out how far President Omar Hassan el Bashir and his ruling National Congress Party have gone in fulfilling conditions placed by SPLM as of October 11th this year.

Kiir reassured the jubilant congregation that SPLM ministers and presidential advisors will not resume working in the government of national unity nor the newly appointed will be sworn in until key provisions of the CPA as demanded by SPLM are implemented as scheduled.

President Kiir said it's an obligation to support and direct the young generation of southern Sudan to leading a promising lives especially during the CPA era that ended a protracted 21 years of war between north and south Sudan and the marginalized Sudanese.

Kiir donated twenty million Sudanese pounds, equivalents of ten thousands United States of American dollars to Young Christians Students (YCS) movement in Juba.

(ST)

ICG calls for changing approach of Darfur talks, Government rejects (AISudani)

The ICG has of deterioration of the security situation in Darfur. The crisis group urged the UN and the AU to adopt a more effective strategy so as to achieve peace in Darfur. The ICG called for involving all parties to the conflict in the peace talks. The government has rejected the content of the ICG report on Darfur.

IGAD Summit in Nairobi to discuss CPA partners' crisis (AISudani)

The IGAD has announced that an IGAD Summit will be held soon in Nairobi to discuss progress in the implementation of the CPA. The Summit will discuss also the CPA partners' (NCP and SPLM) crisis. This was confirmed by the IGAD Secretary General.

SPLM Federal State Minister of Finance, Head of Parliamentary Group summoned for investigations in Juba (AlAyam)

The SPLM has summoned its Federal State Minister of Finance, Lual Deng, and the Head of its Parliamentary Group, Manawa Aligo, for investigations in Juba based on statements and contacts they made during the NCP-SPLM crisis.

Joint Mediation Team returns to Juba for further consultations with rebel groups (AlAyam)

The UN Chief Negotiator, Taye Zerihoun, and the AU Chief Negotiator, Ambassador Sam Ibok, will return today to Juba for further consultations with the Darfur rebel movements.

Joint committee to discuss security situation in Kalma camp, plan on disarmament (AlAyam)

The Wali of South Darfur, Ali Mahmoud, and the UN-AU Joint Special Representative, Rodolpho Adada, have yesterday agreed to establish a joint committee to study the security situation in the Kalma camp in Nyala and to suggest a plan for collecting arms from people in the IDP camp.

Dr. Ghazi Salah Aldin: Kiir's speech positive, Presidency has the decisive say (AlAyam)

The Presidential Adviser, Dr. Ghazi Salah Aldin, described the last speech by FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir as positive. Ghazi told the media yesterday that the Presidency meetings can result in a decisive step to overcome the crisis over all pending issues.

SAF rejects deploying UN troops north of Abyei (AIRai AIAam)

The SAF Spokesman, Maj. Al Sawarmi Khalid Saad, said there is no provision in the CPA that binds the government to accept UN monitors in the area north of Abyei. He said the said area is part of north Sudan. The point on monitors in this area was raised after the ABC experts have submitted their report which has been rejected by the Government.

(AEC) report says SPLM keeps 22,601 troops in Nuba Mountains, 35,330 in Blue Nile (AIRai AIAam)

The report of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) states that the SPLM still keeps 22,601 troops in the Nuba Mountains and 35,330 in the Southern Blue Nile area.

Complaints committee of the National Press Council stops publishing AlIntibaha for two days (ALSahafa)

The Complaints Committee of the National Press Council decided yesterday to stop the publishing of AlIntibaha daily for two days based on a complaint tabled by Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun. The newspaper published an article accusing Haroun of making contacts with foreign embassies on the belief they may assist in his case at the ICC. The article also accused Haroun of compromising on NCP agenda so as to improve his relations with the SPLM for the same purpose.

SPLM delivers message from Kiir to al Bashir (Akhbar AlYom)

The GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong, told the newspaper that he has delivered a written message on pending issues from FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir to President al Bashir.

Non-Muslim Rights Commission discusses execution of laws to avoid conflicts (Alwan)

The Commission of Non-Muslims Rights is currently preparing for a workshop to be held at the beginning of next year to discuss its relationship and work with concerned institutions such the police and the judiciary. The workshop will discuss in particular the role of the police authorities in issues relation to the non-Muslims.

Parliament unanimously passes five-year strategic plan report (Khartoum Monitor)

National Assembly has unanimously passed yesterday the coordination and drafting committee report on the five-year (2007-2011) strategic plan for the national strategic

planning presented by Jemma Nunu Kumba, the head of the economic committee in the Assembly.

South Sudan Kiir directs to ensure free movement of Arab herders (ST)

November 26, 2007 (JUBA) — Southern Sudan government president has called for the free movement of nomadic herders from northern Sudan to pass peacefully into the south with the onset of the dry season migration, the south's Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong said.

"Because of the crisis, there's been a build-up of troops along the north-south border," Biong said. He added that Kiir had told southern states to ensure free access southward for the northerners despite continuing tension.

Biong told Reuters by phone from Khartoum that he was in the Sudanese capital to hand Bashir a letter from Kiir as part of plans for the resumption of talks between the two sides that stuttered to a standstill earlier in the month.

Biong did not specify when Kiir would return to Khartoum but said it would be several days at least because he had to consult the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement, which now leads the southern government.

The future of the oil-rich Abyei area in Sudan's centre was "definitely" still the main sticking point in north-south dialogue, he said. Khartoum was refusing to implement a special protocol for the area because of its oil, Biong said.

The borders of the disputed Abyei region were to be decided by an independent commission. But Khartoum rejected the commission's report and the Abyei deadlock has continued for two years.

Around 2 million people died during decades of north-south fighting, fuelled by the discovery of oil against a background of ethnic and religious differences.

(Material from Reuters)

GoSS

Sudanese 'Lost Girl' joins National Guard (ST)

November 26, 2007 (FARGO, N.D.) — The phone calls came, from the East Coast, from down South and all the way from Australia. In the tight-knit Sudanese expatriate community, news that Aja Galuak planned to enlist in the North Dakota Army National Guard spread fast. Her older brother, Akol Joseph Makeer, had some explaining to do.

After all, the callers noted, no woman had wielded a rifle in the 20-plus years of vicious fighting that flushed Aja and her siblings from their home village in southern Sudan.

No Sudanese woman had thought to become a soldier in Aja's new homeland. There, men like Makeer are dubbed Lost Boys, and women like his sister, who came in much smaller numbers because the war was even less sparing of females, are by extension Lost Girls.

But Aja Galuak had made up her mind.

Since she joined the Guard last year, the 22-year-old North Dakota State University sophomore has inspired several Sudanese men to join and confront the prospect of fighting for an adoptive homeland where they came to get away from all the fighting.

When Aja Galuak approached him last year, Fargo Guard recruiter Eric Binstock was concerned. On the phone, her accent had made it hard for him to make her out. In person, she was polite, sharp and extremely soft-spoken and retiring.

"I was just like, 'Whoa, this is going to be difficult,' " Binstock says.

Aja fully expected difficult. She had trouble fitting in at Fargo South High, where she enrolled when she arrived here in 2003 with her siblings. With her strong accent and little grasp of American teen cool, she had trouble infiltrating high school cliques.

"Getting to know people was hard," she recalls. "I was so lonely."

When she graduated two years later, she worked as a cashier at Hornbacher's and dreamed of college, which she could hardly afford.

The Sudanese community in the United States places a high premium on education, and for her it held a special allure.

In southern Sudan these days, the primary school completion rate for girls is about 1 percent. Here, "The only thing you need to do is just do it," she says. "Work hard, and you'll achieve your goal."

A Guard information booth in her high school had promised free college tuition, a feeling of belonging and a chance to change the world. She could use all of those.

Makeer tried to talk her out of it. "In Sudan, normal women don't join the military," he told her.

But what has bothered him most is the prospect of his sister shipped away to war. Those fears gripped him again in September, when news of fellow Lost Boy Beer Ayuel's death shook the Sudanese community. Ayuel settled in Atlanta after dodging marauding militias, famine and illness on his trek out of Sudan. He was killed in Iraq, 17 days into his tenure as a translator for the Army.

"We came here for refuge," said Aja, who does not know the fate of her parents and many of her siblings. "People were saying since we got out (of) war, if we get deployed again, it will not be good."

Her brother reminded the baffled callers that in America 21-year-olds get to make their own decisions. Aja enlisted in the Guard in spring 2006 and enrolled full time as a pharmacy major at NDSU that fall.

In the spacious gym at Fargo's armed forces building on the edge of Hector Airport, Aja and her unit went through physical testing this October during monthly drill weekend. In black sweats and gray Army T-shirt, she had an air of supreme calm. Her face showed little strain while she eked out her 50th push-up. She ran a 2-mile flat, treeless stretch along Interstate 29 silently as fellow soldiers panted or grunted.

During her 10-week basic combat training course in South Carolina's Fort Jackson, she logged in quite a few miles during physical training. The running, the shouting of officers and the barking of rifles during weapons training awakened chaotic memories.

Before she reunited with her brother at Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp in 1998, Aja spent most of her childhood wandering through war-torn southern Sudan. When she got caught in skirmishes along the way, she ran.

"When the fighting was on, I was so little," Aja said. "I wished I had the skill to do something about it instead of running."

As the shock of the basic training flashbacks wore off, it struck her that now she was the one holding the weapon. She was running to get stronger, not to get away. She had come a long way.

Besides, she found the shared trials of basic training brought her and fellow soldiers together in a way she never experienced in high school.

SHE FIT IN

She returned from training looking stalwart as ever and more grounded. She had survived, and her return seemed to pose a tacit challenge to her once skeptical Sudanese friends.

This January, Aja's friend Chol Mayom joined the Guard and was accepted into NDSU's ROTC program. His cousin, Herjot Herjot, also in ROTC at NDSU, enlisted in the Army Reserve. Two more Sudanese men, Mayom said, tried out for the Guard but failed the entrance test.

"After Aja came back," 28-year-old Mayom said, "I thought, 'If she can do it, I can do it too.'"

Mayom, who's wrapping up his master's degree in economics, welcomes the leadership training he gets in ROTC and the chance to score a good job with the Guard after graduation. He studies Arabic and hopes to join the war on terror.

His decision to enlist didn't shock the way Aja's did. Yet, he faced the general unease about serving among some in the Sudanese community. "Why did you join?" people asked him. "There was a war back home, and you know it's bad." Meyom counters that when God picks the day he dies, it will happen whether he's in Fargo or Falluja.

About 8,000 legal residents join the U.S. military each year, according to Pentagon statistics, some possibly lured by the fast track to citizenship President Bush opened by executive order during his first term.

Mayom became a U.S. citizen before enlisting; Aja, a legal resident, says the much shorter wait for her citizenship was a reason to enlist.

Sinisa Milovanovic, the Lutheran Social Services director for New American Services, says even the limited interest in serving is significant. "That sends a message to me that refugees are ready to take arms and fight for this country. I see it as a commitment to their new home," he said.

(AP)

Southern Sudan official calls on regional body to pressure ruling party

Text of report in English by independent, Nairobi-based, USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service on 26 November

In other news, the Deputy Governor Lakes State] has called on the international community and member states of Inter Governmental Authority on Development, IGAD, to pressure the National Congress Party to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

He blamed the current deadlock between the [Ruling National Congress Party] NCP and [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] SPLM on NCP's failure to implement key protocols in the peace agreement, adding that the international community's intervention will help the two parties to implement the Comprehensive peace agreement [CPA].

Mr Riak also called on the NCP and the SPLM to continue engaging in dialogue to iron out differences in the implementation of the CPA.

Source: Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 0330 gmt 26 Nov 07

BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 261107/hh

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Southern Sudan official calls on authorities to disarm civilians

Text of report in English by independent, Nairobi-based, USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service on 26 November

Lakes State Deputy Governor is calling on authorities from neighbouring states of Warap and Unity to disarm civilians in order to improve security in these states.

In an interview with Sudan Radio Service in Rumbek last week, Mr Awan Guol Riak said civilians in the two states still possess illegal fire arms which pose a security threat in the states.

He said Lakes state has successfully disarmed civilians, which has greatly contributed in reducing incidents of armed conflicts among different communities in the state.

Mr Riak said Lakes State authorities are monitoring their borders with other states in southern Sudan in order to avoid what he calls "infiltration of small arms" into the state from the neighbouring states.

Incidents of armed conflicts in the states have reduced drastically over the last few months since authorities passed a provisional order requiring civilians to surrender the arms in their possession to the authorities or face imprisonment.

Source: Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 0330 gmt 26 Nov 07
BBC Mon ME1 MEEau 261107/hh

Darfur

Darfur rebel leader slams proposal to include Arabs in Darfur talks (ST)

November 26, 2007 (PARIS) — Darfur rebel leader slammed report issued by an international think-tank proposing to include Arab tribes in Darfur peace talks. He said such ethnic approach does harm the cause of Darfur people and ignore the nature of the rebellion.

In a report issued on Monday 26 November, the International Crisis Group urges to make Darfur political process more comprehensive by including women – victims of the conflict — and the Arab tribes.

Abdelwahid al-Nur, the influential leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SLM) denounced ICG report saying it ignores Darfur realities. He further said that the SLM as national and secular movement encompasses all the ethnic groups in the region.

"I invite the writers of this report to visit our troops in Jabal Marra and elsewhere to see the important place of Darfur Arabs in the movement;" al-Nur said.

He further said that Arab militias, who are enrolled by Khartoum to commit crimes against humanity, are actually rejected by their own tribes, because they broke ancestral ties of good coexistence between Darfur components, adding these militias destabilised the traditional leadership within their own tribes.

However, al-Nur warned that no place for the alien tribes brought recently by the National Congress Party in the region to fight the rebellion. He added that these "mercenaries" may have a place in jail.

The rebel leader said they had proposed to include the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue in the peace process to ensure a post-peace forum for all the political, social and traditional forces in Darfur.

He reiterated his rejection of ICG perspective to divide Darfur people to different ethnic groups adding this will cause another Lebanon in Darfur.

With regard to the women, the rebel leader said 40% of SLM membership are women. He said they participated in Abuja Peace talks. He said "We had three women in Abuja talks, Neimat, Taybah and Um aljeech."

Al-Nur said that his SLM, is the most structured movement in the camps and they are represented in the different level within the movement. He pointed out they requested the presence of the IDPs during Abuja talks but at that time the mediation indicated it had no sufficient funds to bring the IDPs representatives to the talks.

(ST)

Abyei chief pleas to NCP to implement protocol (The Citizen)

The Police Commissioner of Abyei Area has said the NCP was terrorizing the people using the Misseriya, who also claim a right to the land. Deng Agok spoke to reporters on Monday shortly before he opened a 7-day civil society conference.

Chad kills hundreds of rebels - army statement (ST)

November 26, 2007 (ABECHE, Chad) — Chad's army said it had killed hundreds of rebel fighters during fierce gun battles near the border with Sudan's Darfur region on Monday after two rebel groups ended a month-long ceasefire at the weekend.

Government forces attacked a column of rebels at Abou Goulem, some 60 kilometres from the Darfur border, as they advanced towards the larger Chadian town of Abeche early on Monday, the army said in a statement on national television.

European Union peacekeepers are due to start deploying to the area in the coming weeks to protect humanitarian operations, largely based in Abeche, for around 400,000 Sudanese and Chadian refugees forced from their homes by years of violence.

"The security and defence forces carried out a total and definitive annihilation of this column. The search (for rebels) continued until nightfall," the statement said.

"The partial toll is around 50 (rebel) vehicles seized, around 40 vehicles destroyed, several hundred dead (on the rebel side) and several prisoners of war."

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the toll and the army gave no details of casualties among its own forces.

The hangar of a French military air base in Abeche, which is the hub of a massive international aid effort to help refugees, had been turned into a floodlit emergency triage centre for wounded Chadian soldiers, a Reuters witness in the town said.

Mahamat Nouri, leader of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), one of Chad's two main rebel groups, said his fighters had come under attack at around 0830 GMT.

"We had information that they would attack us, so we were prepared," he told Reuters by satellite phone earlier on Monday as fighting continued near the small towns of Forchana and Hadjer Hadid, some 70 km (44 miles) east of Abeche.

The UFDD and a second rebel group, the Assembly of Forces for Change (RFC), said on Friday they would break a ceasefire as of Sunday, a month after four insurgent groups signed a peace deal with President Idriss Deby's government.

BORDER TENSION

UFDD rebels briefly entered Hadjer Hadid from Sudan on Saturday, attacking Chadian gendarmes protecting refugee camps, the army statement said.

Chadian and French helicopters took off in pursuit after Saturday's shooting but failed to track down the rebels, who were in as many as a hundred vehicles, military sources said.

Communications Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor held Sudan responsible, saying Khartoum's forces had failed in their obligation to prevent rebel raids across the border.

Chad and Sudan have frequently accused each other of sheltering and supporting armed rebel factions, particularly during the past two years of armed rebellion in Chad's east against Deby's 17-year rule.

The European Union plans to send 3,700 troops to eastern Chad and a northeastern part of neighbouring Central African Republic to protect humanitarian operations and complement a joint U.N.-African peacekeeping force planned for Darfur.

The troops, around half from France which already has troops stationed in its former colony Chad, are due to start deploying in the coming weeks, led by an Irish contingent of 400 soldiers.

But force commander Lieutenant-General Patrick Nash warned EU members last week the mission could not go ahead without more helicopters and medical facilities, diplomats in Brussels said.

(Reuters)

Sudan sues French charity over "Darfur" Kids (ST)

November 26, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's interior minister said Monday the government was taking legal action against a French charity that allegedly attempted last month to fly 103 children from neighboring Chad to Europe.

Minster Zubair Bashir Taha said the ministry was suing Zoe's Ark charity, which said the children were from Sudan's Darfur region, through a French law firm, according to a statement posted on the ministry's Web site. He did not provide further details.

He accused the French charity of violating international laws because they allegedly tried to take children away from villages and refugee camps.

"This is not abduction or the luring of children but a war crime," he was quoted as telling senior police leadership.

Taha also said the ministry was suing a French base in Chad because it allegedly allowed the organization to use its airport. He did not elaborate.

Six members of Zoe's Ark are in custody in Chad after trying to spirit 103 children presented as orphans from Darfur to host families in Europe. If convicted, they face up to 20 years in prison with hard labor.

Chadian and French officials say most of the children had parents or close family and have cast doubt on claims they were from Darfur. Zoe's Ark maintains its intentions were humanitarian.

Violence erupted in Darfur in western Sudan in 2003, when rebels from Darfur's ethnic African Muslims took up arms against the Arab-dominated government. More than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million forced to flee their homes - many to neighboring Chad.

Critics accuse Sudan of retaliating by arming local Arab militias known as the janjaweed, and the government is blamed for widespread atrocities against civilians. The government denies the accusations.

(AP)

US reluctant to apply too much pressure on Sudan: Expert

Tuesday 27 November 2007.

By: Wasil Ali

November 26, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The US administration is unwilling to put enough pressure on Sudan fearing that it may lead to the creation of a Somalia-style scenario, according to a leading expert in African affairs.

Colin Thomas-Jensen, an Africa Advocacy and Research Manager at the International Crisis Group, also told Sudan Tribune that counterterrorism cooperation with Sudan is holding back any meaningful action against Khartoum.

“It all comes down to counterterrorism and Washington's strategy in the war on terrorism” he added.

The intelligence cooperation between the US and Sudan was publicly exposed in 2005 when the Los Angeles Times disclosed that the CIA sent a jet in April 2005 to Khartoum to ferry Gosh into Washington for meetings on nabbing terror suspects in East Africa. The report caused outcry among human rights groups in the US who allege that Gosh has orchestrated human right abuses in the war ravaged region of Darfur. The widespread criticism forced the US administration to subsequently deny Gosh entry to seek medical treatment for heart condition.

The same newspaper revealed in June that Sudan has secretly worked with the CIA to spy on the insurgency in Iraq despite the strained relations with Washington over the Darfur crisis.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died in the Darfur conflict, which Washington calls genocide a term European governments are reluctant to use

Thomas-Jensen said that the US administration fears that revealing evidence against senior Sudanese official may risk drowning the country into a civil war similar to Somalia.

“The memory of Somalia haunts policy makers in Washington” he added.

But it is not just the anarchy concerns that drive Washington’s policy on Khartoum. According to Thomas-Jensen the US administration is not willing to lose some Sudanese officials even if they were complicit in the Darfur crimes.

“Salah Gosh [head of Sudan’s National Security and Intelligence Service] is a very valuable person to Washington” he said.

The Africa policy expert said that he does not foresee any change in US policy anytime soon. He said that despite the US playing a leading role on Sudan, their actions have not matched up with their statements.

“At one point State department officials said that they did not hand over the evidence they possessed on Darfur war crimes suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC) because they received no request from them [ICC]“.

Last May the US president George Bush ordered stiffened sanctions on Sudan that will bar 31 companies controlled by the government from doing business in the U.S. financial system as well as sanctions on four Sudanese individuals, including two senior Sudanese officials and a rebel leader suspected of involvement in the Darfur violence.

However Thomas-Jensen does not think that sanctions are strong enough despite president’s Bush’s willingness to force Khartoum for a change in behavior.

“When the US agencies meet in one room to determine the ways they can pressure Khartoum, every one of them has a reason to hold back tough measures. It will take a personal intervention from Bush if they are to formulate a tough course of action against Khartoum” he added.

Last April Jackson Diehl from the Washington Post mentioned that Bush rejected an initial draft of sanctions against Sudan presented by various governmental agencies. According to Diehl “Bush’s anger rocked the Oval Office” and demanded that his special envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios and national security advisor "come up with something stronger".

Thomas-Jensen also suggested that disagreements between Andrew Natsios, US presidential Envoy to Sudan and the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer, are negatively impacting US policy.

He further warned that the US administration should not assume that there are any moderates within Sudan’s National Congress Party (NCP).

“There are no moderate figures within the NCP. There are simply those who are willing to give concessions in order to retain their power and control over all of Sudan” he added.

(ST)

