

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 29 November 07

(By Public Information Office)

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## **Highlights**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **Darfur rebel leader calls on UNSC to assist ICC in arresting suspects (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (PARIS) — A prominent Darfur rebel leader called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to address the issue of outstanding arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SLM), told Sudan Tribune that achieving peace in Darfur requires "ending the culture of impunity in Darfur".

The rebel leader said that the UNSC must ensure that Sudan complies with the arrest warrants as mandated by resolution 1593. He warned that lack of action by the UNSC on the matter "will be construed as lack of resolve by the council".

Al-Nur statements come ahead of a report by the prosecutor of the ICC, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, next week before the UNSC. Ocampo is expected to notify the council that Sudan is not cooperating per resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region in early May.

Al-Nur called on the people of Sudan to support the mission of the ICC saying that "justice is a universal value".

"The Sudanese government has clearly demonstrated that it is unwilling to prosecute those responsible for massacring my people. This is simply unacceptable and I will not negotiate on bringing the suspects before court" he added.

The leader of the SLM reiterated his willingness to cooperate with the ICC “to the maximum extent needed”.

(ST)

### **Sudan blames UN for Darfur peacekeeping delays (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan held the United Nations responsible on Wednesday for delays in deploying some 26,000 police and soldiers to Darfur after the world body said Khartoum’s restrictions could derail the peacekeeping mission.

SUNA quoted senior foreign ministry official Suraj el-Din Hamid as saying President Omar Hassan al-Bashir had already issued directives to allocate all the land the mission needed, and that the United Nations had delayed meetings in New York to discuss the deployment twice in two weeks.

"The problems in dealing with the United Nations on this peacekeeping operation reflects the ability of the peacekeeping unit to direct this mission," Hamid said.

(Reuters)

### **UN agency resumes repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Kenyan camp (UN News)**

*28 November 2007* – The United Nations refugee agency has resumed its repatriation of Sudanese from a camp in the north-west of neighbouring Kenya after the operation had been suspended for three months because of poor weather and road conditions and insecurity in the return areas of southern Sudan.

Some 200 refugees from Kakuma camp were flown to the town of Bor, located in Jonglei state in southern Sudan, last week and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported today that many more are waiting to join them.

At least 8,000 of the estimated 50,000 Sudanese refugees living at Kakuma have registered to return to their homeland, despite recent tensions between the Sudanese Government and the former southern rebels over the implementation of the January 2005 peace accord that ended their long-running civil war.

UNHCR said it expects that about 3,000 people will return, either by land or by air, between now and the end of the year, joining the 4,000 who returned before the repatriation programme was halted in August. In total, the agency has supported the return of 70,000 people to southern Sudan since late 2005, while another 90,000 have returned on their own.

Returnees were given awareness courses about HIV and AIDS and about the dangers of landmines, while they were also informed about the rights and obligations in southern Sudan, where two decades of conflict have left the region lacking basic infrastructure and services.

UNHCR is also conducting programmes in Sudan aimed at easing the reintegration of returnees into their former communities. Activities include mine clearing and building or renovating schools, health centres and boreholes.

Mohammad Arif, the agency's senior repatriation officer in Kakuma, described the mood in the camp as upbeat after it was announced the return programme was resuming.

"The refugees are really keen to go back home," he said. "Some of them have been here for more than 15 years. That is such a long time to be in exile."

### **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

#### **Sudan president meets with opposition leader over national reconciliation (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir met yesterday with former prime minister and leader of the opposition Umma party Sadiq al-Mahdi to discuss national reconciliation.

Sudan's news agency (SUNA) said that the meeting aimed at "reaching a common vision on national issues".

The presidential assistant Nafi Ali Nafi was quoted as saying that the meeting as "positive and fruitful". He added that both sides had similar views on many issues that were discussed and voiced optimism that next meeting will be successful.

One of Al-Mahdi's close aides, speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone, downplayed the results of the meeting between the two sides.

The source who asked not be named said that Al-Mahdi met with the party leaders and told them the meeting was "part of a public relations campaign by the ruling National Congress Party".

Al-Mahdi reiterated to Al-Bashir the need for a conference that incorporates all political powers in the country. According to the Umma party official, Al-Bashir expressed his agreement in principle with some conditions.

The former prime minister was accompanied in the meeting by the former Defense minister Major General Fadl-Allah Burma and the party's secretary general Abdel-Nabi Ahmed.

Analysts speaking to Sudan Tribune from Khartoum suggested that the presence of Burma in the meeting has political significance in light of the political crisis between Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLM) and NCP.

Burma, a native of the oil rich region of Abyei, belongs to the Arab tribe of Messiriyah which has a strong presence in the region. The Umma party enjoys substantial support among the Messiriyah tribe.

The Umma party has generally been supportive of Khartoum's stance on Abyei and considers it to be part of the North. Some of the Messiriyah tribe leaders have threatened to take arms if forced to be part of the South.

(ST)

### **Emergency meeting for AU Peace and Security Council in Addis, CPA partners to attend (AlRai AlAam)**

The AU Peace and Security Council will hold an emergency meeting today in Addis Ababa to discuss developments in differences between the two CPA partners. According to diplomatic sources, the GoS delegation will be headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Sidiq, while the SPLM delegation will be headed by the SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum. The GoS and SPLM delegations will brief the Council on their visions on the problems they are facing in regard to implementing the CPA. The meeting will be attended by UN officials. Tom Vrasslen, the head of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, will brief the meeting on the CPA implementation.

### **Kiir addresses in Juba celebration on unity of 16 Darfur rebel groups (AlRai AlAam)**

The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir is expected to address today a celebration organized on the occasion of the unity of 16 Darfur rebel movements. The celebration will be attended by the AU Sam Ibok and Taye Zerihoun representing the UN.

### **SPLM expects resolving pending issues in Presidency meeting today (AlSahafa)**

The SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, said he is expecting the Presidency to resolve all pending issues at its meeting of today. He said the SPLM will present a clear vision to overcome the crisis between the CPA partners.

### **Prominent national leaders submit memo to al Bashir on resolving the country's crises (AlAyam)**

Prominent political and social leaderships will deliver today to al Bashir a document suggesting how address all national issues including the NCP-SPLM crisis.

### **SPLM (Nuba) leader Abdel Aziz al Hilo to return to Sudan in two days (AlSudani)**

The SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasir Arman, told the media yesterday that the SPLM leader, from Nuba Mountains, Abdel Aziz al Hilo, will return from the US to Sudan in few days. Salva Kiir has managed to convince al Hilo to return back home.

### **SPLM suggests separate administration for Abyei as a temporary solution (Rai AlShaab)**

Rai AlShaab has quoted a source in SPLM as saying that the SPLM will suggest at the Presidency meeting a separate administration for Abyei as a temporary solution. According to this proposal the Abyei boundaries will be left to the two CPA partners to agree on them later.

### **Sudan denies delay of hybrid operation deployment, says committed to agreement (Sudan Vision)**

By: Mona Al Bashir, Sudan denied UN charges that it is setting out to delay the hybrid operation. Official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadig, said the false accusation is intended to appease some circles that are seeking reasons for increasing pressure on Sudan. He re-affirmed that the government is fully committed to the items agreed upon within the framework of the tripartite mechanism between the UN, AU and the government.

He noted that the mechanism has held several high-level meetings and agreed on all the issues listed under its agendas, citing that the government has agreed to the heavy support package in April 2007 and the hybrid operation which was passed in Addis Ababa and ultimately passed on to the Security Council to come out in the form of Resolution 1769.

Al-Sadig underscored that, after issuance of Resolution 1769, the government has fulfilled the bulk of its obligations, left only with providing land plots for residences, roads, landing strips and various other services. These items, he said, are now under discussion with the AU and UN. He pointed out that the UN is loaded with the task of funding the hybrid forces and deploying them in Darfur which has not taken place so far though the Resolution has been issued.

He reiterated that the parties that accuse Sudan of delaying the operation are seeking to include the participation of western forces in the hybrid operation, particularly technical and engineering teams from Sweden and Norway; a proposal which Sudan had rejected on the basis that the tri-partite mechanism had previously agreed that these teams should be from China and Pakistan.

"Those who wish to expedite the deployment of the forces in Darfur should hasten to implement the Resolution by providing the funds and equipments for the forces instead of hurling random accusations," Al-Sadig said.

On the other hand, Ambassador Abdelmahmoud Abdelhalim, asserted that peaceful negotiations were the government's top priority though, he added, they cannot remain open endlessly. He underlined that the current run of events serves the purposes of some rebel elements that reject negotiations and some parties that target undermining the whole peace process.

### **UK summons Sudanese envoy over teacher arrest (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (LONDON) — British Foreign Secretary David Miliband is to summon the Sudanese ambassador in London after a British teacher in Sudan was charged with insulting religion.

"We are surprised and disappointed by this development and the foreign secretary will summon as a matter of urgency the Sudanese ambassador to discuss this matter further," a spokesman for Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Wednesday.

British teacher Gillian Gibbons, who was detained in Sudan after her class called a teddy bear Mohammad, was on Wednesday charged with insulting religion.

"The first step is to summon the Sudanese ambassador so we can get a clear explanation for the rationale behind these charges and I think we'll consider our response in the light of that," he said.

"We have to establish what the rationale is for the arrest before deciding the next step. Once the foreign secretary has met the Sudanese ambassador we'll consider further steps."

(Reuters)

### **Sudan charges UK teacher with insulting Islam (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — A British teacher detained in Sudan after her class called a teddy bear Mohammad was charged on Wednesday with insulting Islam in a move that sparked a diplomatic row between London and Khartoum.

Gillian Gibbons, 54, was also charged with inciting hatred and showing contempt for religious beliefs, Sudanese official media said. If convicted, she could face 40 lashes, a fine, or one year in jail.

"Khartoum North prosecution unit has completed its investigation and has charged the Briton Gillian (Gibbons) under Article 125 of the criminal code," the Sudanese news agency SUNA said, quoting a senior Justice Ministry official.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed Gibbons had been charged and officials said Foreign Secretary David Miliband was calling in the Sudanese ambassador over the affair.

The matter will go before a court on Thursday and Gibbons, who is from Liverpool, is expected to appear.

A statement from the Sudanese embassy in London said the case came in response to parents' complaints.

"It is now a police case and the temptation to treat it as a media sensation should be resisted. We certainly do not wish to resort to 'trial by media'.

"British teachers are doing a great job in Sudan. We hope that Ms Gibbons' case will soon be resolved," it said.

Fellow teachers said they did not believe Gibbons had intended to insult Islam and had made an innocent mistake in choosing the name.

"I can confirm that we have met Ms. Gibbons and she said she is being treated well," said British consul Russell Phillips. "We remain in close contact with the Sudanese authorities on this case."

Gibbons was arrested after some parents complained about the bear being named after the Prophet Mohammad.

Teachers at the school said Gibbons had asked her class of 7-year-olds to choose their favorite name for the bear, and 20 of the 23 had voted for Mohammad.

(Reuters)

### **Sudan child rapists spared noose minutes from death (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Two Sudanese men sentenced to die for raping and murdering a four-year-old girl escaped the hangman's noose by just three minutes after winning an appeal, local media reported on Wednesday.

Everything was on track for the prison execution in Khartoum and the convicts had been weighed to calculate the traction on the rope when Sudan's highest legal authority ordered a delay, Al-Rai Al-Am newspaper said.

"It happened three minutes before the scheduled hanging," wrote the newspaper quoting a judge who was due to observe the execution.

Lawyers for the defence managed to win the last-minute reprieve by saying the rights of their clients were not respected during a trial that saw massive media coverage and incited huge public interest.

They won the right to appeal at the last minute and a civil servant from the constitutional court telephoned to stop the execution.

Sudan's highest legal authority must now decide whether to authorise another trial or reject the appeal and send the convicts back to the gallows.

(AFP)

### **RMRJ Warns JEM against Targeting Kordofan (SMC)**

**Wednesday 28 November 2007,** Army of Revolutionary Movement for Restoration of Justice (RMRJ) in south Kordofan, commander in chief Abdu Adam Al Ansari confirms that what has happened in Darfur should not be repeated in any area across the country. He said rebellion in Darfur has caused huge destruction of human and material resources across the region. He said his movement is committed to the agreement it signed with the government. He said there is no return to war in Kordofan at all. He said war is over there for



good.

Meanwhile Al Ansari hoverer warns JEM against any military activities in Kordofan. He said his army is ready to set back any aggression against Kordofan in collaboration of other national forces Al Ansari noted that his forces have returned to the state voluntarily after signing an agreement without intervention from any foreign parties.

### **Khartoum Monitor Workshop Calls Two Partners Resume Negotiations (SMC)**

**Wednesday 28 November 2007, (smc)**, Peace and confidence building workshop organized by Khartoum Monitor Newspaper in collaboration with British embassy to Khartoum calls both national congress and SPLM to continue negotiation of implementing CPA, and consolidate efforts in favor of sustainable peace in the country SPLM member and federal minister of health Dr Tabita Butrus urges president Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his deputy Salva Kiir to negotiating implementation in CPA and enhance health education service to public. On his part Umma Party secretary general Dr Abdel Nabi Ali Ahmmed said all Sudanese people should continue negotiating to stop dispute between the two partners and resolve Darfur problem as well.

## **GoSS**

### **South Sudan government establishes new mission in Belgium (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (BRUSSELS) — The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) announced that it has inaugurated a new office in Brussels that will serve as a liaison office to Belgium and the European Union (EU).

The GOSS announced that the new mission will be headed by Dr. Francis G. Nazari.

The Belgian government gave its approval for opening the mission the visit to Juba by its foreign minister Karel de Gucht, in May 2007.

GOSS officials say that these offices “are not contradictory or competitive to the diplomatic missions of the Republic of the Sudan”.

The inauguration of the new office was attended by Luka Biong Deng, Minister for Presidential Affairs and other GOSS officials.

(ST)

### **Telar, Aleu object, file suit against investigating panel (Sudan Tribune)**

“Dr. Ann Itto and Mr. Peter Bashir Gbandi are not neutral to investigate us,” stated ministers Telar Deng and Aleu Ayieng yesterday. The two Ministers told Sudan Tribune yesterday in Juba that they objected an open a law suit against the composition and legal procedures regarding the committee set by President of the GoSS and SPLM to investigate into allegations raised against them, sources said.

## **Darfur**

### **China won't tolerate threats to Darfur peacekeepers (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (BEIJING) — China on Wednesday rejected threats made by a Sudanese rebel group against its peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

China "could not tolerate criticism from any party for its participation in peacekeeping missions in the Darfur region of Sudan, and opposes any public threat made against the security of its peacekeepers there," the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

(AP)

### **Chad summons Sudan envoy on alleged arming of rebels (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (NDJAMENA) — Chad's foreign minister summoned the Sudanese ambassador Wednesday to protest about Khartoum's alleged arming of Chadian rebels who clashed with the army, an official said.

"Foreign Minister Ahmat Allami received the Sudanese ambassador in Ndjamenana to deliver a strong protest on the unfriendly attitude of Khartoum, which armed and equipped the rebels," the ministry official said.

Allami accused Sudan of violating October's Syrte peace agreement between the Chadian government and the rebels, the official added.

Chad's intelligence chief, General Ismael Chaibo, on Tuesday accused Sudan of arming the rebels as troops showed off the battleground with bodies still lying among smouldering military vehicles.

"Sudan violated the peace agreement," Chaibo said in Abeche, the main town in eastern Chad. "It made promises related to the deal about the containment and disarmament of the rebels. Unfortunately it didn't want to respect its promises."

Dozens of cases of ammunition marked Sudan and several weapons, some of them still in their packaging, were displayed on the battlefield. The intelligence chief said the rebels had fled the scene and headed for the border with Sudan, 60 kilometres (37 miles) to the east.

Ndjamenana had warned Khartoum on Sunday it would have to accept "a large part of responsibility in the unavoidable resumption of hostilities if the incursion of armed elements coming from Sudan" did not stop immediately.

The rebels however accused Chad of failing to implement the peace deal, which had therefore lapsed a month after it was signed.

They also said they had been given an ultimatum to leave Sudan on Sunday.

Allami also saw the ambassadors of Libya and Saudi Arabia, both mediating countries, on Wednesday to condemn Sudan's actions, the foreign ministry official said.

(AFP)

### **Darfur displaced protest against Chinese troops (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (NYALA) — Darfur internally displaced persons (IDPs) have protested today to mark their strong opposition to the deployment of the Chinese troops in their region, a displaced spokesperson said.

Hussein Abusharati, the official spokesperson of Darfur displaced and refugees told Sudan Tribune they organised today three protests in three camps in South Darfur state: Al-Salam, Al-Shoak, Kalma. He said that they are resolved to show their full opposition to the presence of Khartoum allies in their region.

He said that the demonstrators delivered letters to the African Union and to the United Nations expressing their position. He added they told the regional and the international bodies that they can't trust "Khartoum providers of weapons" to protect them.

He also said that other protests are expected to be organized in different IDPs camps in Darfur in North and South Darfur states.

(ST)

### **EU force to protect Darfur refugees may face delays (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (BRUSSELS) — The European Union's military mission to protect refugees fleeing violence in Sudan's Darfur region is likely to face further delays as E.U. nations continue to squabble over who will provide vital air transport and funding for the operation, officials said Wednesday.

Postponement would be a further blow to efforts to stabilize the region around the borders of Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic following reports Tuesday of an upsurge in violence in eastern Chad and growing doubts about the deployment of a strengthened peacekeeping force in Darfur itself.

At the heart of the problem is the deployment of about a dozen helicopters commanders say are essential to provide mobility for troops in the vast, remote region, plus a smaller number of armed helicopters to provide protection.

Central to the dispute within the E.U. is a disagreement between France and U.K. French troops will make up about half of the force in Chad, and Paris wants other E.U. nations to share more of the costs of the mission. The U.K. is not sending troops and says it should not have to subsidize the mission since it's already paying for its contribution to international operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Irish Lt. Gen. Pat Nash, the designated commander of the mission, presented diplomats from the 27 E.U. nations with his list of requirements Tuesday.

One senior E.U. military official said he expected a high level political dispute over the funding issue before E.U. governments come to a solution.

(AP)

### **Chad rebels warn EU force not to side with Deby (ST)**

November 28, 2007 (N'DJAMENA) — Chadian rebels warned a European Union peacekeeping force bound for eastern Chad on Wednesday not to side with President Idriss Deby, saying they would fight it as a foreign occupation army if it did so.

The warning from the rebel Assembly of Forces for Change (RFC) followed the biggest battle in months in eastern Chad between Deby's forces and fighters from another major insurgent group, the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD).

Both the UFDD and the government said their soldiers had killed hundreds of enemy combatants in clashes on Monday near the border with Sudan's Darfur region. The fighting shattered a month-old peace deal signed between Deby and his rebel foes.

"If this force is coming to secure the refugee camps, then we see no problem," RFC leader Timane Erdimi told Reuters.

"But if they're coming to help Idriss Deby's regime, we'll consider them a foreign occupation force and we'll fight them," he added, speaking by satellite phone.

Erdimi, a nephew and former close aide of the Chadian president who defected to join the eastern insurgency, said RFC forces were maintaining their positions in a mountainous area south of Guereda in eastern Chad.

"If the government troops attack us, we'll respond," he said, but added that if left alone his group would be willing to discuss trying to salvage the peace agreement.

The latest battle once again stoked tensions between uneasy neighbours Chad and Sudan and highlighted the risks and sensitivity of the EU deployment, which will be the largest mission in Africa undertaken to date by the European bloc.

The UFDD rebels, led by another defector, former Defence Minister Mahamat Nouri, have also in the past warned the planned EU force not to try to come between its fighters and the army.

Nouri called on Wednesday for all-inclusive round table negotiations between Deby's government and all its opponents to try to solve the Chadian conflict.

(Reuters)

### **Reconciliation Conference between Border Tribes in N. & South Darfur Concludes Sessions (SMC)**

**Wednesday 28 November 2007**, Reconciliation Conference for border tribes between northern and south Darfur states concluded sessions yesterday. About 2500 participants attended the conference representing native administration leader and

politicians from SLM led by Mani Arkoy in addition to UN representatives. Commissioner of Dar Al Salam locality and the of S. Darfur governor representative Ramadan Jabir told (smc) that this comprehensive reconciliation meeting was initiated after holding of three previous conferences in the area. He said the conference has famed mechanisms to following up the implementations of recommendation adopted as references for rebuilding the social stature and consolidate coexistence to maintain sustainable peace between various tribes in the area.