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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Abyei Area budget to be submitted to Presidency today*

**Al-Khartoum** reports the Abyei Area budget, worked out by the new Administration is to be submitted to the Presidency today. The Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Moyak expressed hope that the Presidency would submit the budget to the National Assembly for approval, adding that the new Administration is facing major challenges due to lack of funding. The Administration had been making efforts to re-knit the social fabric and to promote harmony among residents. A meeting would be held by the end of this week between Dinka and Messeriya to discuss migration routes to avoid clashes, he added. Security and stability in the area was a major achievement for the new administration despite the difficulties facing JIUs, he said, citing the presence of a platoon from Brigade 31 in Dafra and an SPLA force in Aqwak.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Vision** reports Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahma Abbas said his administration was providing social security in all areas. He said schools at all levels would reopen next week. He urged all residents to send their children to school. He added that all areas are secure and stable and that a meeting had been held with tribal chiefs in the Area to reassure them of the Administration's efforts in this regard. Some residents in the area had started to build their houses from local material and to resume agricultural activities, he added.

### *Elections may be postponed – Deputy Speaker*

**Al-Ahdath** reports National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin said the Elections Commission might not be able to conduct upcoming elections on schedule. He said it was likely that the elections would be postponed until the end of 2009, citing the rainy season as possible reason.

### *Human rights situation in Sudan stable - Humanitarian Aid Commissioner*

**Sudan Vision** reports HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman when he met with USG John Holmes refuted UNCHR claims of human rights violations in northern and southern Sudan. He said Sudan government and UN agreed to implement the 2009 \$2.2 billion joint plan which was approved in Geneva two weeks ago for rehabilitation and construction. The UN official appreciated the GoNU cooperation and its renewal of the fast track process as well as the assistance provided to facilitate movement of UN and other agencies working in the field.

According to **Khartoum Monitor**, Holmes assured GoSS of continued support in confronting critical humanitarian issues, particularly in the health sector. He urged continued donor support for the huge reconstruction and development efforts still required in the South. "A lot has been achieved since I was last in Juba less than two years ago but a huge amount remains to be done," he said.

### *Museveni expected to ink final peace agreement today*

**The Citizen** reports Ugandan President Museveni is expected to arrive today in Juba to sign a final peace agreement reached between LRA and Government of Uganda.

### ***Great journalist Hassan Satti passed away***

**Local dailies** report the death of the Chairman of Board of Directors of Akhir Lahza newspaper. Hassan Satti, who passed away yesterday, was one of the great Sudanese journalists, famous for his bold opinions and strong positions.

### ***SPLM ready to contest elections – James Wani***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports GoSS Legislature Chairman James Wani in his address to yesterday's SPLM celebrations of Barack Obama's victory said SPLM was ready to contest upcoming elections and urged speeding up democratic transformation. He called for free and fair elections similar to US elections. According to **Al-Sahafa**, Wani said secession would lead to disintegration of southern Sudan. Meanwhile, SPLM official Yassir Arman emphasized the need to resolve the Darfur crisis before elections are held.

### ***VP to visit NY to participate in UNGA***

**Al-Sahafa** reports Presidential advisor Mahgoub Fadul Badri said VP Taha is to visit NY to brief the UN General Assembly on the Sudan Government's efforts to end violence in Darfur. Taha is expected to meet French President Sarkozy on the sidelines of the UNGA as well as heads of states and governments for similar briefings.

### ***US company trains SPLA in western Equatoria***

**Al-Intibaha** reports an US company is training an SPLA battalion in three camps in western Equatoria. Informed sources said those being trained include demobilized Darfur SAF elements. According to the sources, the three camps are located in western Equatoria in an area near Yei and Maridi and the road leading to Rumbek. This area was selected due to its remoteness from SAF and peacekeepers. The sources said the company also supervises huge arms arsenals where heavy and lights weapons are stored.

Meanwhile, the sources indicated that SPLA continues violating the CPA by detaining and firing at UN troops in Torit besides impeding JMTs movement.

### ***Time is not right to talk about UNAMID expulsion – Government***

**Al-Intibaha** reports Sudan Government defended UNAMID in Darfur saying it is not a "pain" and its mission is specific and known. MFA AU Director Ibrahim Ahmed Abdul Karim told the paper that time was not suitable to talk about "expulsion" of UNAMID should diplomatic and political efforts to defer the ICC indictment fail. "If Darfur issue is resolved, there will be no need for foreign troops," he said.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***French President tells Sudan's Bashir to act to end Darfur Crisis***

DOHA, Qatar (**AFP**)--French President Nicolas Sarkozy told his Sudanese counterpart Omar Bashir on Saturday to take action to end the conflict in Darfur.

"I told him that the Darfur tragedy has now gone on for too long, that he must take initiatives and change things," Sarkozy said after meeting Bashir on the sidelines of a U.N. development conference in Qatar.

He said the changes to be made concerned the tumultuous relations between Sudan and neighboring Chad and the situation inside Sudan "regarding human rights, and the presence of certain people in his government."

In September, France raised the possibility of deferring a call by the International Criminal Court prosecutor for an arrest warrant against Bashir for alleged genocide in Darfur. But Paris has said Khartoum must cooperate with the Hague-based ICC seeking to prosecute two Sudanese officials wanted by the court for the massacre of civilians in Darfur province.

Qatar has been preparing for a possible peace conference between Beshir's government and Darfur rebels, who have been locked in nearly six years of fighting in the western Sudanese region.

### ***U.N. panel proposes Sudan election delay***

**(Reuters)** A U.N. panel of experts has suggested that Sudan delay elections due for July 2009 by at least four months because of expected heavy rains and logistical problems, a senior U.N. official said on Friday.

The first democratic poll in more than 20 years is to be held after a 2005 peace deal that ended a north-south civil war in Africa's biggest country.

But a U.N. panel told the government of semi-autonomous south Sudan it might be better to push the election to the end of the year, or even into 2010, the U.N. regional coordinator for southern Sudan, David Gressly, told reporters.

Any delay could face opposition from southerners worried that they may also have to wait longer for a referendum on southern secession, promised in 2011 under the same north-south peace deal. But Gressly said it would be impossible to run an election during south Sudan's long rainy season which usually starts around June.

He added it would be problematic to get a poll going before the next rainy season, given delays in setting up key electoral legislation and bodies like the recently created electoral commission. "We have provided our own guidance, proposing using the coming dry season (November to May) more for a registration process, and then the following one for elections and the following one after that for the referendum," Gressly said.

He said the guidance, prepared at the request of south Sudan's semi-autonomous government, did not amount to an official recommendation to change the election date. He added that organizers also needed to factor in enough time to prepare voters for the complex elections that will involve up to 12 separate voting papers, covering ballots for everyone from the country's president to members of state assemblies.

Both northern and southern leaders have so far publicly stressed the poll will take place before the July 2009 deadline.

### ***S. Sudan needs more help to rebuild education, roads, health care – Holmes***

**UN News** 28 November - The United Nations relief chief today wrapped up a two-day visit to southern Sudan by calling on international donors to help the region develop basic education and health-care services and quickly build up its road system as it recovers after two decades of civil war.

John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, met President Salva Kiir and other senior officials in the Government of Southern Sudan. which was set up as a result of the 2005 comprehensive peace agreement that ended the north-south civil war.

Mr. Holmes and Mr. Kiir – who met in Juba – discussed the scale of the south's continuing

development needs, as well as mutual concerns about the full implementation of the peace deal, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Mr. Holmes – who is also the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator – also assured southern Sudanese officials of the UN's ongoing humanitarian support and urged donors to get behind construction and development initiatives.

Southern Sudan is lacking in basic infrastructure as a result of the prolonged civil war, and Mr. Holmes stressed that the capacity of the Government in the region must be built up so it can take over health-care, education and other services.

“A lot of has been achieved since I was last in Juba less than two years ago, but a huge amount remains to be done,” he said. “The UN must be here for the long haul, to support Government leadership, while the international community as a whole has to keep up its spending. Too much rests on the development of the south and the continued health of the north-south relationship for there to be any other option.”

Health care is a particular concern, with southern Sudan experiencing some of the worst child and maternal health indicators in the world, due in part to exceptionally low immunization rates. One in seven women, for instance, dies as a result of causes related to childbirth.

“It is simply unacceptable in the 21st century that women continue to die in childbirth at such rates, and that children and adults die needlessly of preventable diseases like malaria.

“Distributing mosquito nets to all the population, training enough staff and qualified midwives, and getting them out to the rural communities who are in dire need of primary health care: these must be top priorities.”

Mr. Holmes visited Agok, home to some 30,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled Abyei, a town in an oil-rich area of central Sudan that remains in contention between the north and south despite the peace accord.

During their discussions the Under-Secretary-General and Mr. Kiir also emphasized the importance of a rapid solution to the separate conflict still engulfing the Darfur region of western Sudan.

### ***Uganda rebel fails to sign deal***

**BBC** -- Mediators are returning to their base after the Ugandan rebel leader, Joseph Kony failed to sign a peace deal. The mediation team is expected to return to the remote area near the Congolese border on Sunday to try once more to have the deal signed.

The mediation effort is being led by former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and Sudan's Riek Machar. They are returning to the Southern Sudanese capital, Juba, leaving some of their team on the ground, hoping that the process can be brought to a successful conclusion on Sunday.

According to the ***Sudan Tribune website***, Chief mediator and GoSS VP Riek Machar told UN-sponsored Radio Miraya in Mabanga that the signing was postponed to Sunday. He explained the move by the LRA need to hold more consultations with the religious leaders.

Earlier, Uganda's government said it would ask for arrest warrants for Mr. Kony to be lifted if he signed. But Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa made it clear that Mr. Kony must sign the

deal first before the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was addressed.

"We were only prepared to talk to the ICC about an alternative method of resolving that dispute, and also of justice in the country, only if peace is going to come to the people of northern Uganda," he told the BBC's World Today programme.

He added that as far as the government was concerned Mr Kony was the only serious obstacle to a final peace agreement being signed by the two sides. "Our people are ready to sign any time, but Kony is the one who has been eluding us," he said.

### ***UN rights report blasts Sudan intelligence service***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 28/11/08 (GENEVA) – The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights blasted the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services in a 51-page report released Friday.

"In Khartoum and other parts of Northern Sudan, the National Intelligence and Security Services systematically use arbitrary arrest and detention against political dissidents," said the report, which was compiled by UN human rights officers deployed in Southern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile State, Southern Kordofan, and Khartoum with the consent of government authorities.

According to Sudanese law, NISS agents acting without a warrant may arrest and hold someone for up to three days without informing a judge or prosecutor, and then the NISS Director General Salah Gosh can extend the detention for up to 60 days without ever informing a judge.

Amendments made to the National Security Forces Act in 2001 give Gosh the authority to detain suspects for up to six months without judicial review, and an additional three months if approved by the National Security Council.

During the reporting period, the NISS allegedly arrested women, children and relatives of criminal suspects, student political leaders, indecently dressed women, Darfuris in Khartoum, and persons opposing the Kajbar and Merowe hydropower projects, as well as journalists and lawyers investigating human rights abuses connected to these projects.

However, the report did not address Darfur and the authors were unable to access prisons in Khartoum and Roseris in Blue Nile, as well as unofficial places of detention in the Khartoum area.

The UN said that even "blatantly unlawful arrests" rarely result in criminal sanctions against the officials involved, "in particular with regard to arrests carried out by the NISS and the military."

"A large number of NISS detention cases involving ill-treatment and torture have been reported to United Nations human rights officers over the past three years," stated the rights paper.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay formerly served as a judge at the International Criminal Court in the Hague, until moving to the post in Geneva in September.

"In some cases death threats are made against detainees prior to their release to prevent them from speaking out about the abuses they suffered in detention," said the report.

The UN monitors also cited violations by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the ruling party of southern Sudan, which fought the NISS and the Khartoum government from 1983 until a peace deal was reached in 2005.



For instance, UN staff found 33 children aged 12 or younger in jails across Southern Sudan and the Three Areas during the month of April and they also witnessed three children attacked with a horse rider's stick at a Rumbek police station.

### ***Khartoum and Juba connected by road after decades***

**Sudan Tribune website**, 29/11/08 (JUBA) – Sudan's national capital, Khartoum, and the capital of the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan, Juba, are now connected by all-weather road after they were cut off from each other by the two decades of war between North and South that ended in January 2005.

In the Council of Ministers meeting on Friday chaired by the First VP of the Republic and President of GoSS Salva Kiir, the Minister for Roads and Transport, David Deng Athorbei announced that a vehicle could now travel by land from Khartoum to Juba through Bahr el Ghazal region.

Athorbei said the opening up of roads connecting the two capitals, separated by thousands of kilometers, is one of the biggest achievements scored by the three-year old Government of Southern Sudan after the signing of the CPA. He said it also takes only about ten hours to travel between Khartoum and Bentiu, Unity state, by car.

Road transport between the two capitals will significantly reduce high transport charges, since many people would now have the other cheaper choice to use land instead of air transport. Air transport between Juba and Khartoum costs about \$200 per one-way ticket.

River transport in the South has also been in use from Juba to Kosti by ship or boat, but usually takes more than a week to reach the destination before proceeding to Khartoum on another four-hour journey by land.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Gabriel Changson Chang, told the press after the meeting that the Council also approved a \$400 million road construction project with the EYAT Company to construct a number of additional major roads connecting states and with neighboring countries. Additional road projects include connecting Southern Sudan and Ethiopia through Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states, and to asphalt the roads from Juba to Uganda and Kenya.

### ***Sudan politicians claim stake in Obama heritage***

**Reuters**, Khartoum – Sudanese politicians claimed Barack Obama as one of their own on Saturday as they belatedly celebrated his election as U.S. president, hailing his family roots in their country.

Much has been made of Obama's father's origins in Kenya. But he acknowledged his distant Sudanese roots in his autobiography "Dreams From My Father". "His father came from the Luo (tribe), who are from the Nile. The Luo originally moved from Sudan to Kenya," said Yasir Arman, a senior member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, former southern rebels who are now in a coalition government with the north.

Hundreds of SPLM supporters crammed into their headquarters for a belated party marking Obama's victory. Many held up banners marked 'New Sudan Yes We Can' - a message that merged an SPLM slogan with Obama's rallying cry.

Arman said members were inspired by Obama's election as the United States' first black

president. "It is giving a message to our society that Sudan can do the same, that Sudan can recognize its own diversity," he said. "We hope he will be able to give more attention to all of Africa, not just Sudan."

### ***Human Rights Activist Released***

**Sudan Tribune website** revealed yesterday that a Sudanese human right activist have been released after spending five days in detention. Amnesty International (AI) confirmed the release saying that Osman Hummida was freed late Thursday. AI said that Hummida "is not believed to have been charged, he may face charges in the coming days or weeks".

However the pro-government newspaper Al-Rayal-am reported that Hummida will stand trial accused of spying for the ICC and supplying them with documents. The counts against Hummida, who holds British citizenship, will include sabotaging the government and espionage for ICC. If convicted the activist may face the death penalty. It is not clear if his release signals lack of intention by the authorities to press the charges.

On Monday the Sudanese authorities detained three human right activists and interrogated them on their links with the ICC. Those arrested by Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Service also included Moniem El-Gak and Amir Suleiman. The latter were subsequently released.

According to ST Hummida was one of the founders of Sudanese Organization against Torture (SOAT). He and El-Gak work as consultants to civil society and nongovernmental organizations. Suleiman is chairman of the Khartoum Center for Human Rights and Environmental Development.