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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

NCP and SPLM discuss Elections Commission

Al-Ayyam reports that informed sources said SPLM has nominated three southerners for Elections Commission membership while NCP has nominated six persons. The Presidency is expected to announce formation of the Commission after consultations are completed.

189 police advisers join UNAMID in Darfur

Al-Ayyam reports 189 police advisers including 17 officers from 12 countries arrived yesterday in Darfur to join UNAMID.

Presidential Assistant leaves for Paris today

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie will leave for Paris today heading a delegation for meetings with French officials in a bid to create a conducive atmosphere for the peace process and the Qatari initiative to address Darfur issue.

Government accuses London and Paris of blocking ICC indictment suspension

Al-Sahafa reports Sudan Government accused Britain and France of trying to prevent the APC summit in Accra from passing a resolution demanding suspension of ICC indictment of President Bashir. According to MFA Minister of State Al-Samani Al-Waseela, the attempt failed and the summit's final communiqué supported Sudan, calling on the Security Council to suspend ICC application.

LRA presence in western Equatoria unlawful

Al-Sahafa reports FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir said LRA presence in western Equatoria State unlawful. Addressing a wrap-up session of the Southern States Governors' Forum, Kiir said LRA has caused suffering for the people of the State. He also called on the chief mediator and UN envoy for talks between LRA and Ugandan Government to prepare a final report.

US Envoy due in Khartoum today

Akhbar Al Yom reports the US Envoy for peace in Sudan Richard Williamson is due in Khartoum today on seven-day visit. MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq said the US envoy's visit involves consultations between Khartoum and Washington on a range of issues. The envoy will also visit Darfur and Juba.

Arab Justice Ministers to discuss ICC application in Cairo

Al-Intibaha reports Arab Justice Ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting at Arab League's HQs next Sunday to discuss the ICC application for an arrest warrant for Bashir. The meeting has been requested by Sudan. Sudan's Justice Minister, currently in Cairo, confirmed the meeting will take place there on 12 October.

Government under intensive pressure to relocate IDPs

Akhir Lahza reports the government is under intense pressure to relocate Kalma IDPs after

reports that a Russian-made helicopter contracted by UNAMID was shot down by an RPG fired from within the camp.

NCP official Qutbi Al Mahdi said the incident confirmed the correctness of the government move to collect unlawful arms in South Darfur.

DDR in eastern Sudan proceeding

Al-Qowat Al-Musalaha reports the North Sudan DDR Commission (NSDDR) said DDR in Eastern Sudan was proceeding satisfactorily.

Deputy Commissioner general Maj. Gen. Abdul Kareem Abdul Faraj has announced completion of preparations to reintegrate 572 Eastern fighters into the civil service in the Red Sea, Kassal and Gedaref.

Sudan expels two UK embassy employees

Akhir Lahza Two British Embassy employees involved in injuring UNMIS national security guards with their vehicle last month have been expelled by the Sudanese government. According to reports, the British employees attempted to forcibly park their vehicle in the wrong place and resisted the UNMIS guards. The Embassy employees were given 72 hours to depart Khartoum. Ambassador Ali Yousif, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's official spokesperson, said that the move should not affect bilateral relations between the two countries. Yousif said that he had discussed the issue with the Deputy Head of the British Embassy in Khartoum and was relieved to learn that the decision was accepted by the Embassy.

Darfur peace talks set to gather pace

Sudan Media Centre (SMC) The Qatar-led Arab League initiative to bring the parties involved in the Darfur conflict to the negotiating table in Doha, is expected to gather momentum soon, according to a Sudanese Foreign Ministry official. Ambassador Ali al-Sadeq told the Khartoum-based correspondent of the **Arrayah** Arabic daily that a Qatari delegation is expected in Khartoum soon to help start up negotiations between the armed movements and the Sudanese government. "We are confident that Qatar's efforts to broker peace in Darfur will succeed. Qatar has already succeeded in finding solutions to several crisis faced by the Arab and Muslim countries. It has also played a role in brokering the Doha deal which ended the conflict between the Lebanese parties," al-Sadeq was quoted as saying to the daily.

Websites/International News Coverage

Sudan revokes visa of US special envoy before reversing course

4/10/08, Washington (**Sudan Tribune website**) — According to an SPLM-supporting paper, the Sudanese government [temporarily] revoked the visa of US special envoy Richard Williamson. The daily **Ajras Al-Hurriya** cited an unidentified senior US State Department official as saying Williamson applied for a visa which was granted to visit Khartoum and Juba next week to discuss the Darfur crisis with Sudanese officials as well as other issues. However Khartoum sent a letter to Williamson saying that he "is not welcome to visit at the present time". After pressure from Washington, Khartoum reversed its decision on Williamson's visa the next day, the official added.

The letter did not specify reasons for the decision however the State Department official suggested it was linked to Williamson's position regarding deferral of the ICC indictment of

Sudan president Al-Bashir.

In last week's meeting between Sudan 2nd Vice President Ali Osman Taha, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Williamson, Sudan demanded Washington's help to invoke Article 16 which allows the UN Security Council (UNSC) to suspend the ICC prosecutions in any case for a period of 12 months that can be renewed indefinitely. But Taha was told that US will not allow the deferral and warned Khartoum not to interfere with international justice, the State Department official reportedly said.

The newspaper said that the US envoy will fly to Libya before arriving in Khartoum tomorrow. It is not clear what his agenda will be given the pending US presidential elections and preparations for transition into a new administration in Washington.

Williamson will also visit Paris for talks with French officials.

Sudan denies ICC link to Bashir's decision to return home from ACP summit

4/10/08, Khartoum, (**Sudan Tribune website**) -- The Sudanese government strongly denied that President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir cut short his visit to Accra while the two-day ACP Group summit was in progress. Al-Bashir's press secretary Mahjoub Fadl Badri said that the Sudanese head of state "delivered the country's address and handed over the chairmanship to the Ghanaian president". Badri said speculation as to why Al-Bashir did not stay for the closing ceremony simply sought to distract from the ACP's show of support for Sudan and against the ICC moves.

A **Pan African News Agency** (PANA) report had said that Al-Bashir had taken "many by surprise with his unceremonious departure, since he had scheduled a news conference for Friday". Sources told the news agency that had taken the precaution [of leaving] because of the possibility that an ICC warrant was pending. (ST)

Sudan: Poor face "blackmail" by rich

3/10/08 (**Reuters**) -- Sudan's president, accused of genocide in Darfur by the West, said rich countries were bullying the planet's poorest states into accepting bad terms of trade and warned of a "looming Cold War".

Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who faces a possible ICC indictment for war crimes in Darfur, used the ACP summit to criticise "power politics" in international relations.

"Small and poor states, which constitute the majority of ACP membership, are exposed to threats of aggression, interference, subversion, blackmail, pressures of all kinds and the dicta of the rich and the powerful," Bashir, the outgoing chairman of the ACP group, said in a speech to the summit in Ghana.

He and his successor, Ghanaian President John Kufuor, called on the 79 nations of the ACP group, which has a population of over 300 million and includes some of the poorest countries, to unite to confront the challenges of globalisation.

These included seeking a common position to negotiate trade with the E, which buys more than a quarter of the group's exports, and trying to improve the terms of trade for developing nations within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

ACP unity has been undermined by some members which, under pressure from Brussels and worried about being excluded from the EU market, have signed Economic Partnership

Agreements (EPAs) with the bloc, while others hold out for better terms.

The first of these deals are to be concluded on October 15.

"Embarrassingly, some of our members have been caught, on the one hand, between the non-fulfilment of the (WTO) Doha Round, which would have created a fairer trading system; and the resort to trading arrangements such as the EPAs with the EU, on the other, which tend to undermine our regional integration efforts," said Kufuor, whose country has inked an interim deal.

Bashir, who gave his speech in Arabic, was more blunt.

"The EPA negotiations have proved that no meaningful economic partnership could be achieved in the absence of real reform in current international monetary trading systems," he said, calling for "collective bargaining" by the ACP group.

Many developing world leaders and anti-poverty campaigners say the EPAs have weakened the ACP group's capacity to win better trade terms from the EU that would help protect their often vulnerable, commodity-exporting economies.

Bashir, who said earlier that the ICC prosecutor's bid to indict him threatened to derail peace talks to end civil war in Darfur, predicted an increase in global political tensions. "The simmering signs of Cold War looming on the horizon may jeopardize the whole international stability," he said.

Bashir did not mention the United States or Russia, but criticized the US-led war on terror underpinning Washington's policies in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The declared war on terrorism, in the absence of a concrete definition of the phenomenon, blurs the dividing line between the legitimate rights of self-defense, resistance against occupation on the one hand, and criminal acts and conduct on the other," he said.

Kufuor, in his speech, urged the ACP states to work together to tackle terrorism, climate change, higher oil and food prices and the problems of migration, racism and intolerance.

Anti-poverty and fair trade campaigners said the disparate ACP group urgently needed to find a common voice. "There is still space within this summit for the ACP heads of state to make a strong political decision to stand together as a political group," said Deborah Scott, policy adviser for the pan-African lobby group ACORD.

"If that does not happen, the ACP will likely lose significant relevance as a grouping; without a unified trade relationship with Europe, there will be little that they hold in common," she added.

SPLM Chairperson appoints National, Southern and Northern Sector officials

4/10/08 (**Sudan Tribune website**) Juba – Sudan's first VP, GoSS President and SPLM Chairperson General Salva Kiir Mayardit, has issued a Party Order appointing SPLM Secretaries to Secretariats at the National, Southern and Northern Sector levels. Previous SPLM Secretariats were dissolved prior to the conduct of the SPLM 2nd National Convention which took place in May in Juba.

The new Secretaries were appointed after being recommended by the SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum, Deputy Secretary General for Southern Sector, Dr. Ann Itto and Deputy Secretary General for Northern Sector, Yassir Arman, in accordance with the SPLM Constitution

of May 2008.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT:

Abdel Aziz Adam El-Hilu, Secretary for Political Affairs and Mobilization
Madut Biar, Secretary for Administration and Organization
Gabriel Alaak Garang, Secretary for Finance and Economic Affairs
Suzanne Jambo, Secretary for External Relations
Yien Matthew, Secretary for Culture, Information and Communication
Martin Majut Yak, Secretary for Popular and Syndicated Organizations
Dr. El Wathig Kamier, Secretary for Training, Research and Planning
Dr. Mustafa Awad El Kharim, Secretary for Social Welfare and Services

SOUTHERN SECTOR SECRETARIAT:

Antipas Nyok, Secretary for Political Affairs and Mobilization
Sofia Pal Gai, Secretary for Administration and Organization
Acuil Malith Bangol, Secretary for Popular and Syndicated Organizations
Bol Makueng Yuol, Secretary for Culture, Information and Communication
Dr. Henry Wani Rondyang, Secretary for Training, Research and Planning
Kuel Aguer Kuel Anyuon, Secretary for Finance and Economic Affairs
Nora Zangabeyo, Secretary for Social Welfare and Services

NORTHERN SECTOR SECRETARIAT:

Yasir Jafar Ibrahim, Secretary for Political Affairs and Mobilization
Malong Majok, Secretary for Administration and Organization
Walid Hamid, Secretary for Popular Syndicated Organizations
Kaji Jermalili Roman, Secretary for Culture, Information and Communication
Ramadan Mohamed Abdulla, Secretary for Training, Research and Planning
Ramadan Hassen, Secretary for Finance and Economic Affairs
Alawia Kebada, Secretary for Social Welfare and Services

Sudan spends \$1.5 billion to develop agriculture

4/10/08, (**Sudan Tribune website**), Khartoum – The Sudanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will spend three billion Sudanese pounds (\$1.5 billion) up to the end of the year to implement a massive programme to develop the agricultural sector.

Ministry Assistant Secretary General Hussein Desouki said that programme spending since the beginning of the year was devoted to the harvesting of water resources and irrigation structures as well as the funding of summer planting season which is expected to be a great success this year.

Desouki said that the funds to implement this program, which labelled "agricultural revitalization", will total 10 billion Sudanese pounds (5 billion USD), for the years from 2008 to 2011.

FAO estimates the area of land suitable for cultivation in the Sudan of 105 million hectares. The proportion of cultivated land and used practically does not exceed 6.78 percent of the total arable land.

The agriculture sector produces 45% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sudan and

provides employment for about 80% of Sudanese.

98% of households touched by blinding disease in Jonglei County - study

4/10/08 (**Sudan Tribune website**), Washington -- Active trachoma, a preventable disease that causes blindness, occurred in at least one member of 98% of households surveyed in Ayod county of Jonglei state, Southern Sudan, according to a study based on a November 2006 survey recently published in the scientific journal "Neglected Tropical Diseases."

Trachoma, a leading cause of preventable blindness, is caused by a bacterial infection that can spread from person to person due to discharge from the eyes. It is more prevalent in areas with flies, lack of water and poor sanitation.

The study found that in 33 percent of households at least one person suffered from trichiasis, this extreme stage of the disease.

If antibiotics are available the disease can be controlled early on and it can also be prevented through facial cleanliness and improved sanitation. The authors recommended corrective eyelid surgery for 5,080 people in Ayod county, distributing antibiotics to all 70,000 residents, improving water supply for an estimated 7,010 to 8,580 households and constructing approximately 9,560 latrines to achieve complete sanitation coverage.

Previous surveys in 12 other areas of Southern Sudan corroborate the researchers' claim that southern Sudan suffers from "an unreasonably high burden of trachoma."

Researchers surveyed 2,335 people from 392 households. The report concluded, "trachoma is an unnecessary public health problem in Ayod."

The authors of the study, Jonathan King, Jeremiah Ngondi, Gideon Gatpan, Ben Lopidia, Steve Becknell, and Paul Emerson represent institutions in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Cambridge, UK, and Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan.

A national report released in Khartoum in 2005 found that trachoma accounted for 18 percent of the 500,000 cases of blindness in Sudan.

Another disease, onchocerciasis (OV) or "river blindness," which is caused by worms, puts 4.1 million at risk in southern Sudan, according to a GoSS report released in February.

