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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- FVP receives list of nominees for Abyei Area Administration (Al-Sahafa)
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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English language press

### *FVP and VP to meet in Juba*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the FVP Kiir and VP Taha will meet today in Juba for important consultations on the Darfur issue and the ICC application for an arrest warrant for Bashir.

### *FVP receives list of nominees for Abyei Area Administration*

**Al-Sahafa** reports the FVP Kiir yesterday received a list of names for Abyei Area Interim Administration and the Legislative Council membership from the chief administrator Arop Moyak and his deputy Rahma Abdul Rahman Al Nour. Kiir will submit the list to Presidency for final approval.

In press statements Rahma said Abyei Interim administration would shortly move to the area to assume its functions. The return of IDPs would be a priority issue, he said.

### *SPLM criticizes commission formation delay*

**Khartoum Monitor** reports SPLM has criticized the delay of the formation of the Electoral Commission. Mr. Yasir Arman, SPLM Deputy Secretary General told press in Khartoum yesterday that NCP and SPLM had agreed on the chair of the Electoral Commission. Further was unnecessary, he said noting that the delay is a violation of the Electoral laws.

### *Darfur movements roundtable meeting in Doha*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the Committee of the Qatari initiative is expected to visit the country on Wednesday for consultations. The committee will comprise Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Abdullah, AUPSC Commissioner Ramadan Lamamre and the Arab League's Assistant Secretary General Ahmed Ben Heli. Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said a tripartite meeting is also expected to take place tomorrow between Sudan Government, UN and AU for consultations on the hybrid force. He said UN delegation would be headed by USG Suzan Malcorra who is expected in Khartoum today. The Sudanese side will be headed by MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq while AUPSC Commissioner Lamamre will represent AU.

According to the paper Qatar is to host a roundtable meeting for the parties to the Darfur conflict by the end of the current month.

### *President Bashir refers DPA to NCRC*

**Al-Sahafa** reports President Bashir has issued a decree referring the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) to the National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) for incorporation into constitution. Sources said that is in keeping with the recent agreement between VP Taha and Minni Minnawi in El Fasher.

### *US Envoy carrying nothing new – GoS sources*

**Al-Sahafa** reports that government sources have ruled out that the visit of the US envoy Ritchard

Williamson, expected tomorrow, will achieve any breakthrough on bilateral relations, Darfur issue and ICC application. The sources said the US envoy is carrying nothing new for pending issues.

The US envoy is due here tomorrow and will begin his mission with meetings in Juba on the Abyei issue and the CPA. On Wednesday he will hold consultations with government officials about Darfur issue and the ICC.

### ***Presidential Assistant in Paris***

**Al-Ayyam** reports the Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie and NISS DG Gen. Salah Gosh will hold intensive consultations today in Paris with senior French officials. Sudan Ambassador to France Sulaiman Mohamed Mustafa said the consultations would focus on bilateral relations, regional and international situations, Darfur, ICC and French support for the Qatari initiative to address Darfur issue.

### ***Sudan's blind more than 500,000***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports according to the Federal Ministry of Health there are more than 500,000 blind persons in Sudan and over two million others suffering from cataracts needing medical operations. The Ministry said there are also more than 22 million persons in danger of becoming blind and more than 70,000 others suffering from blindness' complications and more than 4 million persons are in danger of contracting river blindness. There are more than 40,000 blind children in Sudan, the Ministry said, adding efforts are underway to establish 24 eye hospitals all over the States to control the disease.

### ***Episcopal Church warns of self-determination of southern Sudan***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports a regular meeting of the Episcopal Church stressed the need to sensitize southern Sudanese about the disadvantages of self-determination. According to a press release, the meeting also emphasized the need for peaceful co-existence between religious groups and respect for human rights.

### ***Lack of food in the Blue Nile area***

Areas of Blue Nile state, South Kurmuk and Roseiris as well as some closed areas in southern Sudan are suffering from an acute food shortage, according to a report in **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper.

Sources said a delegation from **HAC** and **UNMIS** visited the affected areas and approved delivery of quantities of food items to these areas but they are yet to reach the targets.

### ***17 persons killed in North Bahr el Ghazal***

**Al-Ayyam** reports floods killed 17 persons, mostly women and children, in North Bahr el Ghazal State. According to **Miraya FM**, hundreds of houses and crops were destroyed and farms submerged. Minister of Infrastructure, J. Lual, said the humanitarian situation was critical.

## Commentary

"The coincidence of visit of the steering committee of the Qatari initiative headed by State Minister Ahmed Abdullah and the visit of UNSG Suzan Malcorra indicate that the recent visit of the Sudanese VP Taha to NY is bearing fruit," writes Mohamed Abdul Gadir, **Al-Rai Al-Aam's** columnist. He says, "It is obvious that the hybrid dossier, assigned to Malcorra, is one of the commitments VP Taha came up with from his meeting with US Secretary of State Rice, on the sidelines of the UNGA". "It is also obvious that increasing importance is attached to Malcorra's visit to Khartoum. Observers are unanimous that honouring hybrid-related commitments by Sudan government will be a major breakthrough for Darfur issue," he add

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *Sudan criticizes Palin, Biden over Darfur flight ban*

By Andrew Heavens, KHARTOUM (**Reuters**) 5/10/08 – Sudan yesterday criticized both U.S. vice-presidential contenders for suggesting they might support a no-fly zone over Darfur, saying the plan showed they knew little about the conflict.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadig yesterday dismissed the statements of both candidates saying a no-fly zone would be impractical and useless.

"They know very little about what is going on here," he said. "Their statements were meant for local consumption. They had nothing to do with Darfur."

Sadig said an air ban would be ineffective because the Sudanese armed forces were not using aircraft in their ongoing struggle against rebel groups in Darfur.

He said government planes and helicopters were only being used to fight bandits and protect humanitarian convoys.

"It would be a very short-sighted move. Curbing the actions of the armed forces would impede the flow of humanitarian aid to Darfur and tie the hands of the government in its efforts to prevent attacks on aid convoys," he added.

### *South Sudan President to visit Rumbek Monday*

**Sudan Tribune** website, 5/10/08, (JUBA) -- GoSS President Salva Kiir is to visit Rumbek. The capital of Lakes state was the scene of inter-clan clashes and a political crisis between state government and state parliament last month.

Kiir will open the census office in Rumbek but reliable sources in Juba say he will also hold talks with local officials on the latest crisis between the state government and the speaker.

On September 24, pro-state government law makers impeached State Assembly Speaker Isaiah Machinkok in reaction to his campaign alleging corruption on the part of State Minister for Finance, Trade and Industry, Philip Marol Mading.

State Governor Akot and Speaker Machinkok were in Juba last week -- Akot for the Governors' meeting, Machinkok to explain his position in the Lakes crisis.

### *UNAMID reinforces protection of Kalma IDP Camp in South Darfur*

**Sudan Tribune** website, 5/10/08 – A military contingent from UNAMID was dispatched to Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur to reinforce UNAMID police forces and provide overnight protection, the peacekeeping mission said yesterday.

The team moved from Nyala, capital of South Darfur, to nearby Kalma camp, where between 32 and 37 people are said to have been killed as a result of an August 25 attack. Sixty-five people with gunshot wounds arrived at a Doctors Without Borders clinic on the day of the attack.

Images of the victims of the attack were too horrific to be published on this website. In another recent incident at Kalma, three girls who ventured from the camp disappeared, according to a report from a UNAMID patrol on Sept. 20.

UNAMID decided Sept. 1 to deploy peacekeepers to Kalma camp on a permanent basis, following reports of an increased presence of government police erecting tents at a new location 5 km (3.1 miles) from the camp.

But the deployment announced yesterday represents a greater military presence in the camp “as a result of recent alleged threats of attack on the camp by the Government of Sudan (GoS) Forces,” said a UNAMID statement.

The deployment is composed of one platoon with one armored personnel carrier present around the clock on a rotational basis of 12 hours for each platoon. The team also provides security at the site of a UN helicopter crash of Sept. 29, and reinforces a Community Policing Centre (CPC) patrol.

The added protection for IDP follows discussions in September among IDP leaders and UNAMID Principal Deputy Joint Special Representative Henry Anyidoho, Chief of Civil Affairs Wariara Mbugua, Acting Head of Office Ali Hassan and humanitarian liaison officers.

UNAMID Deputy Police Commissioner Elizabeth Muwanga urged newly appointed police advisors yesterday to be impartial in their dealings with Government of Sudan Police of the various factions. And she said they should respect the customs and traditions of the people of Sudan and uphold the professional standards required of UN peacekeepers. “All of you here possess a wealth of knowledge in policing and we hope that you will all work together to serve the people of Darfur,” she said.

### ***Arab justice ministers to meet on Sudan-ICC crisis***

**Xinhua**, 6/10/08 -- Arab justice ministers will meet in Cairo next week to discuss means of defusing the recent crisis between Sudan and the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Egyptian MENA news agency reported Sunday.

At a joint press conference with visiting Sudanese Justice Minister Abdel Basit Saleh Sabdarat, Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said the ministerial meeting on Oct. 12 will focus on the legal aspects of the Sudan-ICC crisis. Moussa said Sabdarat and he have discussed an upcoming visit by an AL committee on resuming peace talks between the Sudanese government and rebel movements in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. Sabdarat expressed his country's confidence in the AL chief's efforts to help resolve Sudan's problems.

### ***Sudan downplays impact of world financial crisis on local economy***

**Sudan Tribune** website, 5/10/08 , (KHARTOUM) –Sudanese Finance Minister Awad Al-Jaz said that the world financial crisis will have little or no impact on the local economy. Al-Jaz said US sanctions, shielded Sudan from the ripple effects of the global credit market collapse.

Sudan's major trading partners reside in the East and primarily China which two-thirds of its oil.

This week Chinese premier Wen Jiabao said that the country's economy is strong enough to withstand the impact of the global financial crisis and may even help the world by maintaining fast growth.

The Sudanese official said that lessons learned from the crisis include strengthening internal production and attracting foreign investments as well as ensuring that the banking sector is performing on solid grounds. He also revealed that a committee from the Central Bank and his ministry are monitoring the situation as a precaution from any possible repercussions that may reach Sudan.

### ***Qatar, Libya discuss efforts to achieve peace in Darfur***

(**Sudan Tribune**). The Qatari Prime minister discussed with his Libyan counterpart in Tripoli yesterday the ongoing efforts to hold peace talks between Sudanese government and the rebel movement in Darfur.

Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jasim today met with the Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee (Prime Minister) Shukri Ghanem. The meeting discussed the tasks to be undertaken by the tripartite committee to mediate Darfur peace talks. They also tackled the normalization of Sudan-Chad relations and Libyan efforts to end the five-year conflict in Darfur.

The Sudanese government top negotiator for Darfur peace talks, Nafi Ali Nafi, is expected to arrive Monday in Paris for talks on the peace process in western Sudan and Khartoum efforts to suspend the ICC jurisdiction in Darfur crimes.

### ***Command for Africa Is Established by Pentagon***

By THOM SHANKER, **New York Times**, 4/10/08, WASHINGTON — For decades, Africa was rarely more than an afterthought for the Pentagon. With Africa Command, Gen. William E. Ward said, a goal is "to prevent conflict, as opposed to having to react to a conflict."

Responsibilities for American military affairs across the vast African continent were divided clumsily among three regional combat headquarters, those for Europe, the Pacific and the Middle East. Commanders set priorities against obvious threats, whether the old Soviet Union and then a resurgent Russia, a rising China or a nuclear North Korea, or adversaries along the Persian Gulf.

If deployment of fighting forces is an indicator, that historic focus north of the equator endures. But since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, a new view has gained acceptance among senior Pentagon officials and military commanders: that ungoverned spaces and ill-governed states, whose impoverished citizens are vulnerable to the ideology of violent extremism, pose a growing risk to American security.

Last week, in a small Pentagon conference hall, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, inaugurated the newest regional headquarters, Africa Command, which is responsible for coordinating American military affairs on the continent.

There are barely 2,000 American combat troops and combat support personnel based in Africa, and the new top officer, Gen. William E. Ward of the Army, pledges that Africa Command has



no designs on creating vast, permanent concentrations of forces on the continent. "Bases? Garrisons? It's not about that," General Ward said in an interview. "We are trying to prevent conflict, as opposed to having to react to a conflict."

Already, though, analysts at policy advocacy organizations and research institutes are warning of a militarization of American foreign policy across Africa.

Mr. Gates said the new command was an example of the Pentagon's evolving strategy of forging what he called "civilian-military partnerships," in which the Defense Department works alongside and supports the State Department and the Agency for International Development, as well as host nations' security and development agencies. "In this respect, Africom represents yet another important step in modernizing our defense arrangements in light of 21st-century realities," Mr. Gates said. "It is, at its heart, a different kind of command with a different orientation, one that we hope and expect will institutionalize a lasting security relationship with Africa, a vast region of growing importance in the globe."

Mr. Gates and General Ward said that this work to complement and support American security and development policies would include missions like deploying military trainers to improve the abilities of local counterterrorism forces, assigning military engineers to help dig wells and build sewers, and sending in military doctors to inoculate the local population against diseases.

While that thinking has influenced the work of all of the military's regional war-fighting commands, it is the central focus of Africa Command.

And over the past two years, it has quietly become the central focus of the military's Southern Command, once better known for the invasions of Grenada and Panama, but now converting itself to a headquarters that supports efforts across the United States government and within host nations to improve security and economic development in Latin America.

A number of specialists in African and Latin American politics at nongovernmental organizations express apprehension, however, that the new emphasis of both these commands represents an undesirable injection of the military into American foreign policy, a change driven by fears of terrorists or desires for natural resources.

Officials at one leading relief organization, Refugees International, warned of the risk that Africom "will take over many humanitarian and development activities that soldiers aren't trained to perform."

In a statement, Kenneth H. Bacon, the president of Refugees International, said that the creation of Africa Command was "a sign of increased U.S. attention to Africa." But he also said that it was "important that Africom focus on training peacekeepers and helping African countries build militaries responsive to civilian control and democratic government."

Mr. Bacon, a Pentagon spokesman in the Clinton administration, added, "The military should stick to military tasks and let diplomats and development experts direct other aspects of U.S. policy in Africa."

Refugees International released statistics showing that the percentage of development assistance controlled by the Defense Department had grown to nearly 22 percent from 3.5 percent over the past 10 years, while the percentage controlled by the Agency for International Development dropped to 40 percent from 65 percent.

General Ward rejected criticisms that Africa Command would result in a militarization of foreign policy,

and he said it was specifically structured for cooperative efforts across the agencies of the United States government.

For example, a deputy commander at Africom is Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates, a career Foreign Service officer. And General Ward himself previously served in a combined diplomatic and military role, as director of efforts to help reform the Palestinian security services.

But concerns remain that whatever arena the Pentagon enters, it has more money, more personnel and more power than any other government organization, American or foreign. “If we can bring a capability that can be an assist to one of our interagency partners, then I think we ought to do that,” General Ward said. “But I draw a distinction between leading that effort and supporting that effort. We don’t create policy. This is not the job of a unified command. We implement those aspects of policy that have military implications. And we support others.”

Planners abandoned early intentions to base Africa Command in Africa, perhaps with a major headquarters and regional satellite offices. Owing to local sensitivities, security concerns and simple logistics of moving around the vast continent, which often requires routing through Europe, the command will for now have its headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

General Ward said that in creating the Africa Command, he had been in close contact with his counterpart atop the military’s Southern Command, Adm. James G. Stavridis, who has received high marks from Pentagon leaders for converting the military presence in Central and South America. Where previously Southern Command emphasized direct military action, it now focuses on programs to train and support local forces, and assist economic development, health services and counternarcotics efforts. “The more I look at this region over the two years I have been at Southcom,” Admiral Stavridis said in an interview, “the more convinced I am that the approach we need to take for U.S. national security in the region is really an interagency approach.

“Think of the problems that afflict this region — natural disasters, poverty, the narcotics trade, lack of medical care,” he said. “Our thought at Southcom is, How can we be supportive of an interagency approach? How can we partner with other interagency actors, and then tie that together with our international partners?”

Admiral Stavridis said Southern Command was “very directly and consciously not taking the lead.” “We are trying to be part of the team, to be a facilitator,” he added.

But George Withers, a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America, a nonprofit research and human-rights advocacy organization, said in a statement that “while improved delivery of U.S. assistance is certainly an admirable goal,” putting Southern Command into a coordinating role on issues like corruption, crime or poverty “drains authority from the State Department and resources from the Defense Department.”