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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

Controversy over trial of Kushayb in El Geneina

Al-Sahafa reports Ministry of Justice Undersecretary Abdul Daeim Zumrawi told journalists yesterday that the PDF leader Ali Kushayb is currently being investigated for prosecution but that he does not know when trial will take place. Fadullaha Ahmed, El Geneina Commissioner who is also chairman of the Security Committee said he had no information that the trial would begin today. However, the town has been under tight security measures since yesterday which sources thought could indicate preparations for the trial of the militia leader. Judicial authorities in El Geneina also said they had not received any official correspondence regarding a possible trial.

Al-Intibaha reports that deputy head of the Sudanese Mission in Cairo Idriss Suleiman said the Sudanese Public Prosecutor for Darfur crimes had decided to refer Kushayb for trial. "It is most likely that Kushayb will be tried next week," he said. He also revealed that 13 crimes were being investigated but gave no details.

UNAMID Joint Special Representative meets with Presidential Adviser in Khartoum

Sudan Vision reports UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR), Rodolphe Adada, had a meeting with Presidential Adviser for African Affairs, Bona Malwal, in Khartoum yesterday. The JSR briefed Mr. Bona Malwal on UNAMID's work to restore security and stability in Darfur and create a climate conducive to the success of the political process. The Presidential Adviser and the JSR exchanged views on the need to re-energize the peace process in Darfur.

JSR Adada, accompanied by the UNAMID Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, also met the Government of Sudan officials to discuss Darfur Integrated Security Task Force (DISTF) which was established in the aftermath of the Kalma incident of 25 August.

NCP urges donors to facilitate elections

Al-Sahafa reports consultations between SRSG Ashraf Qazi and NCP leaders were held yesterday. According to NCP official Hasaballah Omer, three obstacles to the elections schedule were identified as announcement and acceptance of the census results, North-South border demarcation and acceptance of the result of Abyei area arbitration.

SRSG Qazi addressing the possibility of elections delay, said, "We will talk about these obstacles after the census results are announced and the border is demarcated," he said. The SRSG indicated he had discussed a range of pending issues with NCP leaders.

Al-Intibaha reports the SRSG Qazi discussed a range of CPA issues and challenges with NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi including the census and North-South border demarcation. He cited positive developments in CPA implementation but noted that formation of the elections commission and announcement of the census results would greatly facilitate the elections process.

Mahdi said the elections commission would determine the elections budget as well as the

international community's contribution.

The People of the Sudan Initiative spoil other efforts – Turabi

Al-Sahafa reports the Secretary General of the Popular National Congress Party Hassan Turabi has strongly criticized the People of Sudan Initiative and declined the invitation to attend its launch lest it spoil other efforts and confuse the Qatari initiative. He also warned of a politically explosive situation in Eastern Sudan. "Address the eastern issue before it explodes," he advised.

Twenty three political parties rejected the initiative scheduled to be launched tomorrow. However, NCP continues to make contacts to ensure opposition parties attend the launch.

According to **Al-Wifaq**, those expected to attend tomorrow's opening session, which will be addressed by President Bashir include the Arab League Secretary General Amr Musa, AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping, UN-AU Chief Mediator Bassole and his deputy Azuz, Egyptian Foreign Minister Abu ElGeith, Abdul Salam Al-Tireiki of Libya and representatives of states and organizations.

Cholera kills 25 people in Aweil East

Khartoum Monitor reports cholera has killed 25 people in Aweil East, Wanjok County Tiitcok. The cause of the outbreak was reported to be pollution of the water supply. Commissioner, Diing Aher Ngong has called upon GoNU, GoSS and NGOs to give a helping hand to tackle the situation.

9000 defected NCP, join SPLM

Ajras Al-Hurriyah reports that 9000 NCP members have defected and joined the SPLM in the Upper Nile, reportedly because of being marginalized by the NCP since the conclusion of the CPA.

SPLA defector detain three GoSS vehicles

Al-Intibaha reports SPLA defector Maj. Gen. Tobi Madut has seized three GoSS vehicles to protest injustice. He reportedly claims said three vehicles he owned were confiscated when he deserted SPLA and his entitlements had also not been paid. He told the paper that he would not return the three vehicles until he gets back his three confiscated vehicles plus financial entitlement.

Trial of US diplomat killers resumes

Local dailies report that the Khartoum North Criminal Court resumed yesterday its trial of those accused of killing US diplomat John Granville and his Sudanese driver in Khartoum. The Prosecutor said 24 prosecution witnesses would testify. He said it had yet to be established that the group which claimed responsibility were the actual assassins. The court will resume sitting today.

Education in southern Sudan facing challenges

Al-Intibaha reports GoSS revealed yesterday that education in southern Sudan is encountering difficulties in the form of acute shortage of teachers and text books as well as the lack of vocational and technological education. Minister of Education, Culture and Technology Dr. J. Zirwan has urged the federal government to address the challenges.

Continuation of assassinations and disappearance of northerners in South

Sudan

Al-Intibaha reports two northern Sudanese have been killed in Aweil and Juba while two others disappeared in Juba. The paper's sources said Babikir Musa Yousuf, from El Fasher, was shot dead in Aweil by SPLA officer, now in prison.

In Juba, authorities detained three persons accused of spying for JIUs. The three were detained after luncheon hosted by a JIU officer. All three were from the town of Atbara. They were brought to Kastim. Reportedly, one died of torture and the two others were likely to have been transferred to an SPLA detention centre in Yei or Nimule.

Website/International News Coverage

Iran seen supplying arms to Sudan

15/10/08, UNITED NATIONS (**Reuters**) - Iran and Russia joined China and nine other states as direct weapons suppliers for Sudan after a U.N. embargo was imposed in 2004, a human rights group said in a report published on Tuesday.

China's position as Khartoum's top arms supplier is well known and has long been criticized by human rights activists and Western governments. Other suspected weapons suppliers, such as Iran, are rarely mentioned.

In a report dismissed by Sudan, the New York- and Washington-based activist group Human Rights First said it used public databases to compile data on weapons transfers to Sudan.

That country was hit with a U.N. arms embargo to keep weapons out of its western Darfur region, where Khartoum has been accused of genocide by the United States and the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court.

Sudan rejects the allegations of genocide and has said it would never hand over either of the two men indicted by The Hague-based ICC for war crimes in Darfur. The ICC prosecutor in July asked the court's judges to indict Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir as well.

Human Rights first said China had probably provided tens of millions of dollars of arms to Sudan since 2004, despite its declared weapon sales value of less than \$1 million.

There are other suppliers, the group alleges. "Iran reports total arms sales of over \$12 million to Sudan, including almost \$8 million worth of tanks," it said. That is consistent with information from Western diplomats, who have told Reuters that Tehran was selling Sudan arms in an attempt to cement ties and deepen military cooperation.

Sudan's U.N. ambassador, Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem, told **Reuters** that groups like Human Rights First were "just branches of Western intelligence in the garb of human rights."

"We dismiss them," he said, adding that the timing of the report showed it was an attempt by Western powers to link Iran's and Sudan's cases and increase pressure on Khartoum.

He did not deny that Sudan bought weapons from abroad. "We have the right to import arms from anywhere we wish," he said. The spokesman for Iran's U.N. mission could not be reached for comment.

Western diplomats say cooperation between Iran and Sudan makes sense given that both countries feel harassed by the West and are on the agenda of the U.N. Security Council, Sudan for Darfur and Iran because of its nuclear programme.

India is another arms supplier to Sudan, the report said. It said India claimed to have supplied only \$200,000 worth of arms, but an Indian defence firm entered into contracts worth over \$17 million in 2005 "to provide battlefield surveillance radar, communication equipment and night vision equipment."

Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has sold Sudan "33 new military aircraft since 2004, and has reportedly provided training, advisers and pilots for Russian aircraft in the Sudanese air force," the report said. "Some Russian pilots have reportedly flown missions over Darfur," the group added.

Other direct arms suppliers are Belarus, Cyprus, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey, it said. There are other countries listed as indirect suppliers -- states whose arms have ended up in Sudan but not necessarily due to direct sales. Those countries include the United States, the Czech Republic, France, Germany and Britain.

Ethiopia denies sending weapons to South Sudan

14/10/08, ***Sudan Tribune website***, — Ethiopia has denied charges of sending weapons to the Government of Southern Sudan by an aircraft during the past week. The Sudanese foreign ministry summoned the Ethiopian ambassador to Sudan and conveyed a strong protest over the alleged weapons shipment to the SPLA.

At a press conference in Khartoum Monday after the MFA meeting, Ambassador Ali Abdu said the plane had transported samples for a trade fair in Juba for Ethiopian companies. He added that the samples included military gear, spare parts, some firearms and military uniforms. He stressed that the samples would be repatriated to Ethiopia when the exhibition ends on 16 October. The reason for exhibiting the military equipment was to show the capacity and industrial potential of the Ethiopian companies concerned, not to supply the SPLA, he said.

GoSS Vice President Riak Machar had denied all knowledge of reports of an Ethiopian airplane landing in Juba with heavy weapons. In a press statement, he went on to note that the CPA grants the SPLA the right to acquire arms from any source and does not require such imports to be coordinated with SAF. He pointed out that SAF did not need any co-ordination with the SPLA when it imported jet fighters recently.

The CPA agreement does give the GoSS executive and legislative powers over military and security forces during the 2005-2011 interim period. However, Juba is still subject to another part of the agreement on security arrangements, which states that the Joint Military Board has to determine the issue and submit it to the presidency for approval.

South-South Sudan dialogue meeting to start next week in Juba

14/10/08, ***Sudan Tribune website***, KHARTOUM — The Southern Sudan ruling party and nine southern parties are set next Monday to begin political dialogue to boost Southern Sudan unity and to discuss political development in the country.

The Information secretary of the South Sudan Democratic Front (SSDF), Gordon Buay said today that the Alliance of South Sudan Political Parties (ASSPP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) would hold an inter-southern Sudanese political dialogue in Juba on October 20.

"This dialogue is a continuation of a dialogue between the SPLM and Southern parties which took place in April 2005 and led to the signing of South Sudan Covenant." Buay said in a press release issued today.

Last June eight southern Sudan political forces held a five-day meeting in Juba to found the ASSPP. They also called for the resumption of South-South Dialogue. Buay said the SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayadrit accepted the call of the alliance.

Topping next week's agenda will be ways to address tribalism, the corruption issue and the state of insecurity in southern Sudan. Other issues include the need for unity among the people of South Sudan; promotion of human rights and the protection of minority tribes in the South; and the empowerment of women in regional and national institutions.

Also, according to the SSDF official, the meeting will discuss the ICC indictment of President Bashir and its impact on implementation of the CPA, as well as overall CPA implementation, including the need to pass the Referendum Act.

ASSPP membership: United Democratic Front (UDF), Sudan African National Union (SANU), Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP Two), South Sudan Democratic Front (SSDF), South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF), Covenant Democratic Party (CDP) and Sudan National Labour Party (SNLP).

Nine killed in Lakes state feuding

14/10/08, ***Sudan Tribune website***, RUMBOK – Inter-clan fighting broke out in Cueibet County in the western part of Lakes state when two hitherto friendly clans, Waat and Kongor, clashed on Sunday in a place called Duong Payam, resulting in five people shot dead and four severely injured. Waat and Kongor are two sections of the Gok Dinka of Cueibet.

According to Cueibet County Commissioner Kongor Deng Kongor, the fighting erupted over a girl being impregnated last year. There are no political differences involved, added the official.

Fighting broke out in Rumbek East County Monday leaving four dead and three wounded. The cause, reportedly, was a song written by a young member of the Duor-chiek clan to insult the Duor-bar clan. The two groups clashed in Bar-Pakeny.

Fighting on two fronts in eastern DR Congo uproots over 150,000 – UN

14/10/08, UN News Service - More than 150,000 people have been driven from their homes in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over the past two months by fighting on two fronts, with dissident Congolese and Ugandan rebels, the United Nations refugee agency reported today, announcing efforts to boost relief aid.

Over 50,000 people have been forced to flee in the Ituri region due to intense fighting between the Congolese army and Uganda's rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which has caused heavy loss of life since last month.

"The rebels have caused widespread destruction of houses and public buildings," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing in Geneva. "Local authorities in the area say that the bodies of some 100 civilians were reportedly dumped in a river, while 80 children are reported missing. Parents fear their offspring have been forcefully recruited by the LRA."

People have found shelter with relatives and friends, as well as in churches and public schools

and a UNHCR team in the Dungu region reports that the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in dire need of basic humanitarian assistance with the displacement placing a huge strain on host families.

"In response to the unfolding crisis, we are gearing up to send additional emergency staff to beef up UNHCR's presence in the Ituri region and to help meet the basic needs for shelter and water," Mr. Redmond said. "Our teams will be also bringing in blankets, high energy biscuits and hygiene items."

Access to IDPs and aid distribution is hampered by insecurity and lack of roads. A partial assessment of the displacement has been conducted from helicopters provided by the UN peace-keeping mission in the DRC, known by its French acronym as MONUC, and by aid workers using trail bikes to reach IDPs in areas outside of the town of Dungu.

Meanwhile, fresh fighting in the neighbouring province of North Kivu between Government forces and the rebel National Congress for People's Defence (CNDP) led by Laurent Nkunda has displaced 100,000 people since hostilities erupted at the end of August, according to latest assessments.

In recent weeks UN soldiers have intervened several times to prevent CNDP advances. Yesterday a MONUC operational base in the Tongo and Nyanzale region was caught in the crossfire between the two sides despite their agreement on a separation of forces. The Mission reported that the army had still not redeployed its forces around Tongo.

UN troops also fired back yesterday when they came under fire from the CNDP while investigating the forced recruitment of children. They rescued 13 youngsters under the age of 18 and sent them back to their homes.

UNHCR reported widespread fighting in the Rutshuru and Masisi areas, with civilians fleeing in all directions, but mostly heading towards IDP sites around the provincial capital, Goma. "Our teams report that thousands of displaced are trapped in the towns further inland, not daring to move for fear of the fighting," Mr. Redmond said.

Fighting throughout September has forced all humanitarian agencies to withdraw their staff from the field and has cut off the main supply route from Goma to Kitchanga and Masisi, leaving mainly the displaced at risk of a crisis.

Pending security clearance UNHCR is planning to dispatch this week to Masisi three trucks loaded with plastic sheeting, more than 14,000 sleeping mats, 15,700 blankets and 8,500 jerry cans. Another truck is scheduled to leave for Kitchanga with 1,000 mosquito nets and 1,000 bars of soap.

There are 16 UNHCR-assisted sites in North Kivu sheltering some 100,000 people. Tens of thousands of civilians have found shelter in more than 40 makeshift sites across the province.

Fighting in North Kivu intensified at the end of 2006 and by January this year the number of IDPs there reached more than 800,000. The Government has signed a peace agreement with all parties to the conflict but the ceasefire has been violated several times since. Aid agencies estimate the total number of IDPs in the province at close to 1 million.

Sudan journalist freed from jail

14/10/08, **Reuters** -- A Sudanese newspaper editor said on yesterday he had been freed after spending three days in prison over an article criticizing high salaries in south Sudan's legal

ministry. Nhial Bol of The Citizen daily, detained since Friday by police, told **Reuters** he was released late on Sunday.

COMMENTARIES/LINKS

Is the Qatari Initiative expected to deliver peace to Darfur. [Commentary]. By Mahmoud A. Suleiman. *Sudan Tribune*.14/10/2008. (Noon).
<http://unhq->

