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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

Ocampo admits secret cooperation with UN

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the ICC Prosecutor, commenting on yesterday's **Al-Rai Al-Aam** publishing of documents about secret cooperation between the ICC and the former USG and DPKO chief Jean Marie Guehenno, said UN does not gathering intelligence because its mandate does allow that. However, he pointed out the UN can issue a range of regular legal reports. "I exclusively obtain these reports without disclosure in order to understand how to focus on various issues," Ocampo told Al-Arabiya TV channel.

On the other hand, UN has admitted dealing with the ICC. It said peace missions are mandated to submit detailed reports in their AOR and these reports can be made available to the ICC if requested. Responding to journalists' questions in NY with regard to the confidential documents released by **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper, UN spokesperson M. Montas said UN has no intelligence organs to gather information, adding UN Peacekeeping Operations do not conduct investigations for the ICC. She said cooperation between UN and the ICC is based on an agreement signed by the two sides and unanimously approved by the UNGA in 2004.

In Khartoum MFA Protocol Director Ali Yousif told the paper the Ministry is seriously and carefully reviewing the documents in coordination with its Mission in NY and has stressed the need for UNMIS to abide by its mandate referred to in agreements, adding MFA's stance would be based on the outcome of the investigations.

According to Al-Rai Al-Aam, the Dutch newspaper "NRC Handelsblad" revealed that the ICC is encountering serious internal problems because of Ocampo's tendency to influence the Court's independence and neutrality.

Al-Wifaq reports that some observers are of the view that Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper was in the wrong to disclose the documents. It says, others feel that, by disclosing these documents, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** (known to be close to the government), put the government in a difficult position because UNMIS is a CPA key component. If "UNMIS spying" against Sudan government and officials is proved, then there is no penalty other than to expel it or at least a decision will be taken to determine its jurisdictions, limit its movements etc. But the question is: will the government be able to take such a measure under current circumstances?

GoSS requests UNMIS aircraft for food delivery

Al-Ayyam reports GoSS promised to address the humanitarian crisis and food shortage affecting more than 6000 persons in Renk Locality (Upper Nile State). The crisis is caused by floods that hit the area over the past two days. Renk Commissioner Deng Akoy told the paper that GoSS VP Machar was informed about the situation and has promised to address the situation within two days in consultation with UNMIS to request helicopters to drop food to the affected population.

Swedish de-miners arrive in Sudan

Local dailies report UN Mine Action Office in Sudan announced the arrival of Swedish de-miners in the disputed Abyei area. UNMAO press release said the team would remain in the

area until the end of 2008, in support of humanitarian activities for the return and reintegration of IDPs affected by the recent fighting.

Websites/International News Coverage

UNDP concludes rule of law forum in Rumbek

23 October 2008 (*Miraya FM webpage*)

The United Nations Development Program in Lakes State has concluded a second rule of law forum in Rumbek town, focusing on how to prevent wrongful detention and indeterminate detention for failure to pay compensation. Director General of the State Ministry of Local Government and Law Enforcement, Enock Manyoun, emphasized that the functions of the police, prison, and traditional authorities are of concern to his ministry. Mr. Manyoun said that if justice is implemented through the right procedures then rule of law is in place.

Second Grade Judge Luka Ajok Kedit blamed the police and civil authorities for interfering in the work of the Judiciary. He said that the police has been distributing criminal cases and settling them and calls for a halt to such practices that are against the judicial system.

Uganda army says no war looming at border with Sudan

Ugandan daily *The New Vision website*, 21/10/08 -- The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) yesterday said there was no looming war at Uganda's border with Sudan. The army spokesperson, Maj. Paddy Ankunda, said the UPDF was monitoring the borders as a precautionary measure against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

"We would like to reassure Ugandans that should the LRA attempt to enter Uganda, the UPDF is ready to deal with them. The army is alert and ready to guarantee the safety of our borders," Ankunda said in a statement. There were media reports yesterday that there was heavy deployment at Uganda's border with Sudan following intelligence reports that the LRA rebels were re-grouping to attack Uganda.

Ministry of Finance downplays impact of low oil prices on national economy

23 October 2008 (*Miraya FM webpage*)

Ministry of Finance and National Economy Information Centre Director, Dr. Adil Abdul-Aziz Faki, told Miraya FM, that the national economy remained intact so far because world oil prices are much higher than the value listed in the budget. He pointed out that, according to the general agreement between GNU and GoSS, the surplus from oil prices is disposed in a special reserve for use at times of crisis. Should there be a sharp decline in international oil prices, the biggest impact would be on southern Sudan, he added.

Seven Democratic Union Party factions sign agreement to reunite

22 October 2008 (*Miraya FM webpage*)

Seven Democratic Union Party factions have signed an agreement to reunite the party. While yesterday's meeting was boycotted by Al Merghani, Ali Mohmmmod Hassanein, announced from Cairo that he supported the move to unity. A committee is to draft a proposal to reunite all factions of the party in a month's time and a party conference is to follow within three months of the signing.

Sudan locates area of Chinese hostages

22 Oct 2008 - By Alaa Shahine

KHARTOUM (**Reuters**) - Sudanese authorities have pinpointed the area where Arab tribesmen have been holding nine Chinese oil workers hostage for four days, a provincial official and a senior tribal leader said Wednesday. The sources, however, offered contradictory information as to whether authorities were in talks with the kidnappers, who they identified as a sub-clan of the al-Misseriya Arab tribe called Awlad Omran.

"Negotiations are underway through local leaders. They (the captors) have promised they would keep the Chinese workers safe," said Abdul-Rasoul al-Nur, a former governor of Kordofan and a leader of the Misseriya tribe.

Omar Suleiman Adam, the governor of South Kordofan, said the hostages were located in an area near the small town of al-Debeb. "It is a very rough area," he said in remarks published by the pro-government Akhir Lahza newspaper. Adam said the kidnappers have been unreachable since switching their satellite phones off on Monday.

The nine hostages were snatched near a small field where they were doing contract work for the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC). The company is a consortium led by China's CNPC. It also includes India's ONGC, Malaysia's Petronas and Sudan's state-owned Sudapet.

Nur and Adam identified the leader of the captors as a man called Fudeili and played down his links with the Darfur rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The government initially blamed JEM for the attack but later said the kidnappers had probably no political demands.

Chinese Envoy First Visit after Sudan People's Initiative

23 October 2008 - Mona Al Bashir

(**Sudan Vision webpage**) The Chinese envoy to Darfur arrives in Darfur tomorrow after the Sudan People Initiative. Director of Asian administration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Adil Ibrahim pointed out that the Chinese envoy would meet Sudanese officials especially Dr. Nafie who is responsible of Darfur file, in addition to officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Darfur dossier would be discussed during the meetings.

Sudan 'could face new Darfur war'

(**BBC**) A disputed region in Sudan could turn into another conflict to rival that in Darfur, a think-tank has warned. The International Crisis Group said the main political parties and the international community needed to deal with the crisis before polls in 2009.

"South Kordofan is a Sudan in miniature, with heavily armed African and Arab tribes living side by side," ICG's Fouad Hikmat told the BBC.

The state was bitterly contested during the north-south war that ended in 2005.

A peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the southern rebel movement ended one of Africa's longest and bloodiest conflicts, with the two parties supposed to share power and the country's oil wealth.

But the situation in Southern Kordofan, which lies to the north of the border of South Sudan and borders Darfur, could be the domino that tips over the peace in the south, and possibly, the entire country, the ICG says.

In a report entitled Sudan's Southern Kordofan: The Next Darfur? it says the main northern and southern political parties - President Omar al-Bashir's NCP and the ex-rebel SPLM - have been

"dangerously engaged in ethnic polarisation" in advance of elections.

There were violent clashes between northern and southern groups earlier this year in the oil-rich Abyei region, which was incorporated into Southern Kordofan under the 2005 peace deal.

The disputed Nuba Mountains area was also brought into the enlarged Southern Kordofan State.

Last week's kidnapping of nine Chinese oil workers in the state is an illustration of the volatility of the situation, it says.

"There is frustration everywhere, there is frustration among the Arabs, there is frustration among the Nuba tribes and with all this frustration, there is no adequate responses to it - they can all converge and [be] expressed through violence," Mr Hikmat told the BBC. The conflict in Darfur began more than five years ago after a rebel group began attacking government targets, saying the region was being neglected and accusing Khartoum of oppressing black Africans in favour of Arabs.

The think-tank says reconciliation between Southern Kordofan's ethnic groups was paramount as people there were well armed, but felt let down by the failure of "peace dividends".

According to the report, developmental projects in the state have stalled, as has political integration and hundreds of people have died in land disputes over grazing rights.

There is still time to calm the situation before the elections, if action is taken now, the ICG says.

Although the NCP and the SPLM work together in the national government, many former rebels hope their leader Salva Kiir can defeat President Bashir in the polls.

A referendum is also due in 2011 on whether the south should seek independence.

Sudan's Kordofan Region May Become Second Darfur

By Heba Aly 22 October 2008 (**Bloomberg**) -- The governments of both Sudan and semi-autonomous South Sudan continue to appropriate and divide Arab and African tribes along the border between the two regions, creating a situation that could lead to another Darfur, according to a report.

Both Sudan's ruling National Congress Party and the dominant party in southern Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, have been manipulating ethnic groups in South Kordofan in order to win elections scheduled for 2009, the Brussels-based International Crisis Group said in an Oct. 21 report.

In the absence of sufficient national and international attention, disputes between and within tribes in South Kordofan could follow a pattern similar to Darfur that would destabilize the entire country, according to the report. South Kordofan, is situated in central Sudan, the Khartoum-based government of which signed a 2005 cease-fire agreement that ended a 21-year civil war, that pitted the Arab north against the mostly animist south.

South Kordofan is populated mostly by Arabs of the Misseriya tribe and indigenous Africans of various Nuba tribes. Both groups were mobilized by opposing sides during the civil war

Since the peace agreement the area's inhabitants "remain deeply scarred by that conflict, polarized and fragmented along political and tribal lines," the ICG said. "They are armed and organized and feel increasingly abandoned by their former patrons, who have not fulfilled their

promises to provide peace dividends."

The Nuba feel their grievances were neglected during the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and claim the SPLM used them as a bargaining chip in order to ensure access to oil in the nearby Abyei region and the right to a referendum on southern secession in 2011, according to the report.

The Geneva-based Small Arms Survey in August warned in an August report that South Kordofan would likely be the next flashpoint in Sudan, as both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the armed wing of the SPLM have been actively violating the peace agreement by recruiting and training members of armed groups.

"A combination of weak political will, an international community distracted by Darfur, and underperformance have led to the failure of CPA implementation in South Kordofan," the organization said. "Many now view war in the Nuba mountains as inevitable."

Sudanese officials snub meeting in Kenya over sized arms

Kenya's **Daily Nation website** (22/10/08) -- Top Sudanese government officials will not attend an Inter-Government Authority on Development [IGAD] meeting slated for Kenya next week in what is seen as an escalation of differences on the hijacked Ukrainian ship with weapons, whose destination is controversial. Government sources in Khartoum told the Nation that neither President Al-Bashir, Vice-President Ali Uthman Taha nor the minister for Foreign Affairs Deng Alor will attend the 26-29 October. Instead Sudan is to be represented at the crucial talks by minister of state for Foreign Affairs Ahmad bin Abdullah al-Mahmud, an equivalent of Kenya's assistant minister for foreign affairs.

IGAD meetings are normally preceded by technical committee meetings, followed by that of foreign affairs ministers and finally head of state or governments summit. Members include Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti. Eritrea which was also a member quit last year. Next week's summit will discuss security situation in Somalia and to pressurize forces within the Transitional Federal Government to end their squabbles and work together.

Zain launches mobile phone services in south Sudan state

22/10/08, **Sudan Tribune website** -- Kuwaiti Zain telecommunication network, the second in the state, has launched mobile services provision in Jonglei capital [sothern Sudan] on Sunday as communication improves. Residents of Bor Town can now dial Sudan's code (+249), relieving Southern Sudan's vast State from Ugandan's code (+256) provided by Gemtel.

Zain fully acquired Sudan's former state operator Mobitel in 2006, opening the door to expansion in the south where suspicions after decades of north-south civil war had prevented northern-owned operators from expanding despite a 2005 peace deal. So far very little of Zain's \$500 million investment in Sudan has been spent on the south where the company may have around 150,000 customers. Zain estimate over the next couple of years to spend \$100 to \$150 million, depending on what we find of the ground. Other networks expected to join cells phone provision at Jonglei capital include MTN, which aerial is erected at Pan de Machor, sudani, it aerial at Lang-bar-Atet, and Network of the world (NOW), it aerial at Marol market (beside Zain).

Ugandan rebels sold 30,000 children in the Darfur, parliament told

Ugandan **Daily Monitor website**, 22/10/08 -- Some 30,000 children, who were forcibly conscripted into the rebel LRA in northern Uganda, were sold in the troubled Darfur region in Sudan, parliament heard yesterday. "Some of these children are in Darfur being used as child

soldiers, porters and others sold as sex slaves to the Sudanese," Dr Stephen Kagoda, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs told the Parliamentary Defence Committee. "In fact, that's why (LRA leader Joseph) Kony fears to come out of the bush because we shall ask him to show us our children."