



## Local News Headlines

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Government has the right to expel organizations – MFA spokesperson*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has described the documents about “secret cooperation” between the ICC and UNMIS as “a serious matter”. “It is impossible to keep silent on this,” he added. He said UNMIS has no right to correspond with any body other than the SG. Ali said UNMIS came to monitor CPA implementation and any cooperation outside this framework is not part of its mandate, noting the MFA has its own mechanisms to find about the truth of this matter. “In the MFA we do preempt events and we do not base our stances on hypotheses,” he said. Ali has expressed Government’s appreciation for UNMIS role towards CPA implementation and its help to reinforce partnership between NCP and SPLM, adding agreements signed between the state and organizations give government the right to expel any organization that does not adhere by what it willingly signed. However, he said the state would maintain its policies towards dealing with organizations. “We will not hold the majority responsible for mistakes of the minority unless proved otherwise,” he said.

On the other hand, the ICC Prosecutor’s Office employees have confirmed to a Dutch newspaper “**NRC Handelblad**” that UN decided to allow ICC judges unfettered access to information in the case of Ocampo’s appeal against the Court’s decision to free the Congolese Thomas Lobanga.

In another report captioned “UNMIS ... the spy guest”, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** said the documents about secret cooperation with the ICC have provoked instant and direct reactions from the ICC Prosecutor, UN spokesperson Michele Montas but UNMIS stance remains unclear. There may be many reasons for UNMIS silence but two things are clear. One reason could be that UNMIS submits its reports to NY but does not know where they go or what they will do with them. The second reason could be it knows but it does not want to make it public for safety of its personnel and officials.

### *DUP rules out elections on schedule*

**Al-Sahafa** reports Deputy Chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Ali Mahmoud Hassanain has ruled out that election would take place on schedule and warned against discussing Darfur issue in isolation from other issues. He also warned that insurgency in Kordofan was growing and it could become another Darfur.

The paper also reports about 40 persons have been killed and thousands others displaced, mostly women and children, due to fighting between Zaghawa and Maalia tribes around Muhajiria in South Darfur. Clashes were also reportedly renewed last Friday between SAF and SLA (Abdul Wahid faction).

### *Foreign Minister to visit Cairo*

**Al-Sahafa** reports Foreign Minister Deng Alor is to pay official visit to Cairo on Saturday for consultation with his Egyptian counterpart Abu Al-Gheith, Arab League Secretary General Amr Musa and senior Egyptian officials on latest developments of events in the Sudan especially CPA implementation, Darfur and bilateral cooperation.

### ***GoSS ministerial reshuffle postponed***

**Al-Wifaq** has learnt from informed sources that differences among GoSS leaders over appointment of current SPLA chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Wiyei Deng as GoSS Defence Minister led to postponement of planned ministerial reshuffle. The sources said GoSS' split over the appointment is being addressed.

### ***Washington seeking to dismantle Government - Musa Hilal***

**Al-Wifaq** reports Federal Government Chambers Advisor Musa Hilal, speaking to the paper about his impressions of a previous meeting with US Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum said Washington was seeking to dismantle Sudan's Islamic government. Hilal has also criticized voices calling for self-determination for Darfur.

### ***SPLA involved in third arms scandal***

**Al-Intibaha** reports news of third arms scandal has leaked. The sources said the arms were supposed to be imported from Ukraine and South Africa by a Nigerian arms dealer but Ugandan authorities arrested the dealer due to differences between him and former SPLA liaison officer in "Kutgum". According to the sources, SPLA is making efforts to settle the issue outside the court.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Sudan seeks to boost partnership with UN in humanitarian activities***

23/10/08, **Suna website** --HAC held the first deliberative meeting on boosting the partnership in voluntary and humanitarian work between the UN agencies and the national organizations at the Friendship Hall, Khartoum today.

HAC Commissioner General, Hassabu Muhammad Abd-al-Rahman, affirmed the stability of the humanitarian indicators in Darfur, Southern Sudan, Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile, and urged the UN to work to address the war effects as well as confidence-building. He said the number of national voluntary organizations now registered at the federal level totaled 2,650. Strengthening the partnerships between international and national organizations would increase national capacity, he said. National organizations and the UN should sign technical agreements to promote this, he added. The Commissioner also called for strengthening the civil society organizations as well as increasing their capacity building and focusing on transparency and neutrality and non-discrimination when extending services besides consulting the recipients.

### ***UNAMID reportedly asks Sudan to stop unilateral action in Darfur IDP camp***

Al-Fashir, 23 Oct., **Sudan Tribune website** – On Thursday, UNAMID indicated that a government official had wrongly characterized an agreement they reached recently.

The peacekeeping mission reminded the government of its promise not to take any more unilateral action in Kalma camp in southern Darfur after a bloody incident there in August.

Sudanese Interior Minister Ibrahim Hamid was quoted as saying that the UN and the Government of Sudan agreed that Kalma and Zalingi IDP camps "are considered a threat to security," according to Sudanese media reports on Tuesday. He reportedly also called for the "evacuation" of Kalma IDP camp.

UNAMID stated that it "wishes to recall that following the incident of 25 August 2008, where 33 civilians were killed and at least 85 injured during a law enforcement operation at the camp, government officials and UNAMID leadership held a series of meetings, during which the

Government of Sudan committed not to make any unilateral decision regarding Kalma IDP camp."

### ***UN Says Chadian Refugees Beat Staff in Sudan's Darfur Region***

Oct. 24 (**Bloomberg**) -- Chadian refugees in the western Sudanese region of Darfur attacked a United Nations compound last week and beat staff members, a UN official said. The attack on the office and residential compound of UNCHR, occurred in the town of Mukjar, in western Darfur, Peter Trotter, a UNHCR senior protection officer, said today by phone from El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state. No-one was seriously injured, he said.

Frustration among the refugees with cuts in food-aid rations may have sparked the attack, Trotter said. The World Food Programme slashed rations in May by about 40 percent after assaults on its drivers and trucks reduced food shipments. "Although the amount of that ration has increased a bit, it's not back up to 100 percent," Trotter said. "It may be that the frustrations expressed related in part to that situation."

The attack on the UNCHR compound in Mukjar was carried out by about 50 people armed with sticks and stones on the morning of Oct. 14. They entered the compound, damaged computers, a television and a land-cruiser, and beat some staff members.

"It was both highly regrettable and of course unacceptable conduct on the part of the refugees," Trotter said. Within minutes of the attack, Sudanese police and members of UNAMID, restored order, he said. Police now have four suspects in custody, and a representative of the refugees has since apologized.

UNHCR and WFP staff were temporarily relocated to El- Geneina and UN flights to Mukjar suspended. Flights have since resumed, and UNHCR staff plan to return to Mukjar by the beginning of next week, Trotter said.

### ***SPLM to negotiate with ruling party of Chad***

26 Oct., **Sudan Tribune website**, (WASHINGTON) — Senior leaders of the SPLM will visit N'Djamena to take part in a "party-to-party initiative" with the ruling party of Chad, said Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, a member of the SPLM National Liberation Council and head of the Government of Southern Sudan Mission in Washington, D.C.

"The delegation is headed by the Secretary General of the SPLM Pagan Amum Okech. The SPLM is invited by the President of Chad Idriss Déby," Gatkuoth told Sudan Tribune by phone from Khartoum. "They invited us actually to have bilateral talks between the two parties. Also, the SPLM will unveil its initiative in Chad to help normalize relations between Chad and Sudan and also to talk to the Chadian to help resolve the issue of Darfur."

The SPLM delegation will arrive in Chad's capital on Sunday, comprised of the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General for Northern Sector Yasser Arman, the Secretary for Political Affairs and Mobilization Abdel Aziz Adam El-Hilu and Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth. The delegation will continue its visit on Monday and Tuesday, departing Tuesday evening.

"We have discussed this issue with the National Congress Party, especially Nafi Ali Nafi," said Gatkuoth, referring to President Omar Al-Bashir's assistant and the deputy leader of the NCP. "We have reached an agreement with the National Congress Party that the SPLM will help on the issue of Chad to normalize relations and also for the SPLM to help on the resolution of the Darfur conflict."

### ***Minnawi suspends SLM Secretary General***

Oct. 25, ***Sudan Tribune website***, (KHARTOUM) — SLM of Minni Minnawi has suspended its secretary general, Mustafa Teirab from his position saying he had frozen the secretariat of the party and disregarded the executive body of his movement. The decision said Teirab, who is also state minister for federal affairs ministry, meant to commit intentional wrongdoing in order to disrupt the march of the movement and prevent it from achieving its targets.

Yesterday's decision is considered as retaliation of the criticism professed by his close aide to Minnawi's move to stay in the western Sudan region abandoning his office in the presidential palace. Minnawi appointed Hassan, Dossa to replace Teirab until the end of the investigation. The Vice President of the movement, Rayah Mahmoud Juma and Teirab had blamed Minnawi also for taking decision without consultations with the party leadership.

Teirab, who was in a first stage opposed to the DPA, backed Minnawi and helped him to dissuade others from rejoining the rebellion in 2006. But, he also was accused by others of serving the interests of the ruling National Congress Party.

### ***Sudanese army denies military operation against Chinese kidnappers***

Oct. 25, ***Sudan Tribune website*** (KHARTOUM) — SAF dismissed reports of clashes with the kidnappers of nine Chinese oil workers. Sudanese army spokesperson, Brigadier Osman Mohamed Al-Aghbash told reporters, "Our troops have not done any attempt to free the hostages and reports of the clashes that wounded two of the hijackers are unfounded"

### ***Three killed in Lakes state ambushes***

Oct 26, ***Sudan Tribune website*** (PARIS) – Three clans of Rumbek East and Central counties clashed in Lakes state in Southern Sudan on Friday and Saturday leaving three people killed as a result of different ambushes.

Reports suggest that deserters and divisions within the SPLA, a forcible disarmament campaign, raiding from outside the state and political unrest in Rumbek, the capital of Lakes state could be the reason.

Dinka customary law in this region typically required a compensation payment to relatives of 31 cows in cases of murder, although Governor Daniel Awet Akot decided at the start of a disarmament campaign in June that the payment should be raised to 51 cows. Awet cited the high crime rate in Lakes state and the occasional killing of SPLA soldiers by cattle raiders.

### ***About 1.7 m. displaced return to southern Sudan - IOM***

GENEVA, Oct 24 (***Reuters***) - About 1.7 million uprooted people have returned to southern Sudan since the semi-autonomous region signed a peace deal with the north in 2005, an international aid agency said on Friday. About 60% of the families returning to southern Sudan are headed by single women, and 59% of the returnees are children aged 5 to 17, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

An assessment in March 2005, shortly after the peace agreement was signed, estimated 4 million people had been displaced from or within southern Sudan by 20 years of fighting between the north and south of the country.

According to an IOM report, based on interviews with 875,000 internally displaced people during their return journey, 75% used buses or trucks to get home, 17% walked, 5% traveled by boat and 3% traveled by plane.

IOM spokeswoman Jemini Pandya said it was a positive sign that people started heading back to their war-ravaged homeland "almost immediately" after the peace agreement was signed. "There is a kind of confidence and a return of faith in the future of South Sudan," she said.

Detailed information about those seeking to re-establish themselves in the region should help aid workers and government authorities plan assistance programmes, covering food, shelter, health care and other vital needs, according to the IOM.

"Tracking spontaneous returns, particularly at the village level, provides important information on the reintegration needs of vulnerable individuals and families," its Sudan mission chief, Mario Tavolaj, said in a statement. "It also represents an important tool for planning medium to long-term recovery in Southern Sudan."

### ***Ocampo denies receiving "intelligence" from UN mission in Sudan***

23/10/08, ***Al-Arabiya Television*** -- "Luis Moreno-Ocampo, public prosecutor of the ICC, has told Al-Arabiya that the information he obtained from the United Nations concerning Sudan were not of intelligence value, but were based on periodic legal reports."

A report by Al-Arabiya's correspondent in New York, Talal al-Hajj, cites UN reactions to the accusations leveled by a Sudanese paper against Ocampo. The paper said that Ocampo has obtained information concerning Sudan from the UN mission in Khartoum.

The report shows Michele Montas, a spokesperson for the United Nations saying: "We do not have any intelligence service. The peacekeeping section does not gather intelligence or conduct investigations for the court; yet, it has to provide the UNSC with detailed reports that could be given at a later time to the ICC, according to the 2004 agreement and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in the same year."

Commenting the accusations leveled by the Sudanese paper, Ocampo tells ***Al-Arabiya***: "The United Nations cannot gather intelligence information. Its mandate does not allow it to do so. However, it can issue various reports, and this is not intelligence, but rather periodic and legal reports."

The report then highlights the agreement between the United Nations and the ICC, according to which the two organizations can share information.

Speaking at a news conference, Nicolas Michel, former chief legal official at the United Nations, says: "Our channel for cooperation is the ICC Prosecutor's office. The prosecutor requests the documents and we respond with enthusiasm. This warrants many sources on the ground."

In closing, Al-Hajj notes that UN legal experts acknowledge that they have given thousands of documents and reports to the ICC, adding that this situation raises concerns over the consequences of this cooperation for UN operations and personnel.

### ***Sudan apologizes to Ethiopia over alcohol raid***

KHARTOUM (***AFP***) – Sudan has apologized to Ethiopia after police arrested the Ethiopian military attaché's sister and impounded liquor from the diplomat's home in the capital Khartoum, a Sudanese official said on Friday. Sharia law applies in predominantly Muslim northern Sudan, and alcohol is officially banned.

"The foreign ministry officially apologized to the Ethiopian embassy and Foreign Minister Deng Alor phoned the Ethiopian foreign minister to apologize for what happened," said ministry official Ali Yousuf.

"This (raid) is an isolated incident that has nothing to do with the weapons in the south. We have strategic relations with Ethiopia and we have full respect for all Ethiopian diplomats," said

Yousuf. He said the raid was "not intentional" and a "mistake".

Diplomatic sources said police confiscated between 50 and 60 bottles of alcohol from the Ethiopian diplomat's home. The Ethiopian embassy in Khartoum refused to comment.

### ***Darfur clashes displace thousands***

(**BBC**) An upsurge in fighting in the Sudanese region of Darfur recently has displaced thousands more civilians, say aid agencies and human rights groups.

Human Rights Watch said that more than 40 civilians had been killed in attacks by pro-government Arab militias on rebel-held villages in South Darfur.

The ICRC said thousands had fled the fighting in the last month. It said that many were sheltering under trees and lacked basic supplies.

Aid agencies say the latest violence happened in the area of Muhajiriya, east of the South Darfur capital, Nyala.

Human Rights Watch, quoting unnamed local sources, said that government-backed Arab militias attacked more than 13 settlements around Muhajiriya, burning homes and stealing livestock in operations against rebel forces.

"Once again, civilians are bearing the brunt of fighting in Darfur," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at the agency. An aid worker in the area said that about 12,000 people had been displaced by the fighting, the **AFP** news agency reported.

The ICRC said that last week it provided sleeping mats, clothes and tarpaulins to more than 4,000 people, mostly women and children, displaced by "communal clashes" around Muhajiriya. "People were left without the bare necessities," said Juan Carlos Carrera, head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Nyala.

There have also been reports of fighting in North Darfur. Government forces clashed with a faction of the rebel SLA on Friday, a rebel spokesman said. Suleiman Jamous, a leader of the SLA/Unity faction, said that clashes had taken place on a road near the area of Anabaji. He had no details of casualties. The Sudanese military could not confirm the incident but said it has forces operating in the area.