

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 11 September 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ UN/ Agencies**

- Darfur: Ban Ki-moon says peace talks must be 'final phase' towards settlement
- UN demands air fighters for Darfur
- UN Chief defends Libya as venue for Darfur talks
- China keen to play role in ending Darfur crisis - UN

➤ GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

- Parliament's Security and Defense Committee discusses Al Deain incident
- Government pledges to rehabilitate infrastructure in the South
- French-British pressures to convince Nur to join Tripoli talks
- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS): population census includes Halaib, Abyei and Darfur
- Sudan's SPLM condemns detention of opposition leaders, opposition parties may boycott elections
- Arman to be reinstated in national Assembly
- Sudan to issue arrest warrants for Darfur rebels
- SAF repulses attacks of Darfur rebels on Soudari North Kordofan
- British Minister travels to Sudan

➤ Darfur

- Sudan planes 'bomb Darfur town'
- SLM-Minnawi's hints to take action against police
- IDPs demands UN to implement oil for food program
- Rebels claim Sudan bombed Darfur town

➤ GoSS

- SPLA troops allowed to move in Mujlad in civilian dress
- SPLM calls for the release of Al Fadil Al Mahdi and Hassanein
- NCP southern sector Chairman defects NCP and joins SPLM
- Salva Kiir says "Sudan will likely reverse again to war"
- South Sudan Vice President meets SLM leader in Paris

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Darfur: Ban Ki-moon says peace talks must be ‘final phase’ towards settlement

(United Nations News Service) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in New York yesterday following an intensive, week-long visit to Sudan, Chad and Libya, vowed to maintain his focus on ending the conflict in Darfur and said the region’s leaders agree that next month’s peace talks to try to resolve the crisis there must serve as “a final phase for a final settlement.”

Mr. Ban told reporters at UN HQ that he had been encouraged by the results of his many meetings during his trip, including those with Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir, Chadian President Idriss Déby and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. “I am encouraged. We must build upon this progress to bring peace and security and prosperity to these people,” Mr. Ban said.

Meanwhile, *Sudan Tribune.Com* reported that ***Ki-moon, Monday, defended Libya as the venue for crucial peace talks on Darfur despite its spotty human rights record.***

Ban and the Sudanese government last week set Oct 27 as a date for talks in Tripoli between the Sudan government and Darfur rebels to push for peace ahead of the deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers in Darfur.

The secretary-general, said that Tripoli was chosen because "they had initiated a very important mediating role" since 2006, including meetings in April and July.

While saying it was his obligation to protect human rights, Ban said "there may be many different understandings or, again, interpretations" but that he appreciated "Libya’s flexibility and kind gesture to hold this meeting."

UN demands air fighters for Darfur

(AlAyam) Chief of Operations of the UN Peace Keeping Forces is optimistic on the European Union (EU)’s assistance to provide the hybrid forces in Darfur with air fighters and logistic planes. He said that the hybrid operation needed such facilities to help in the rapidly deployment of the forces and repulsing any attacks against the humanitarian as well as the civilians.

The Chief of UN Operations, who met on Monday in Brussels, Belgium, with the EU ambassadors said that the hybrid operation: lacks the required fighters and transport helicopters, while the UN Chief Moon rejected last Sunday to go deep in the launching –pads of the hybrid forces.

He noted that the EU was expected to announce within the current month its approval for the deployment of EU forces in Chad to protect refugees fleeing from the conflict in Darfur.

China keen to play role in ending Darfur crisis - UN

(Sudan Tribune.Com) China is keen to play a role in ending conflict in Darfur despite criticism from the U.S. and the European Union that it is too close to the Sudanese government, a top U.N. envoy said Monday.

Jean-Marie Guehenno, the U.N. undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, said Beijing was playing "a very important and constructive role in the (U.N.'s) Security Council to help bring a consensus" to end the fighting. "China sees how detrimental to Africa the continuation of the conflict in Darfur is," Guehenno told reporters after talks with E.U. officials.

Both Washington and Brussels have said China has failed to exert pressure on Sudan's government because it is loath to risk oil and weapons deals it has with Khartoum. They argue Beijing's position exacerbates the conflict in Darfur that has killed more than 200,000 people and created more than 2.5 million refugees.

Guehenno said China has shown its willingness to push for peace by appointing a special envoy to the region.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Parliament's Security and Defense Committee discusses Al Deain incident

(AlWifaq) Parliament's Security and Defense Committee has asserted that efforts are underway to settle the status of the demobilized Popular Defense Forces (PDF) personnel in Muglad area.

The Chairperson of the committee Gen. Jalal Taour said he called for a committee's meeting to discuss the developments of the undisciplined security incidents recently occurred in Al Deain and Muglad towns.

Taour described the rumor of Kiir's assassination as "hindering progress of Sudan." In the meantime, Military command in south Darfur state formed an investigation committee to probe the clash erupted between elements from border guards and central reserve forces at Al Deain town.

Al Deain Commissioner Taha Madibo told (SMC) that the clashes have no connection to PDF any more.

He said local authorities have urged border guards and reserve forces to resort to self restrained and discipline since they are colleagues doing the same job of maintaining security.

He said border guards have attacked two elements from the reserve forces. He said local authorities urged border guards to surrender attackers for investigation. However, the commissioner has assured that security in the town is calm and life is running normal.

In a related development Security and Defense Committee of National Assembly has called for an urgent meeting to discuss impacts of Al Deain incidents.

Government pledges to rehabilitate infrastructure in the South

(*AlWihda*) Assistant of the President of the Republic, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, affirmed that the federal Government and the Government of South Sudan (GSS) will provide every possible support to the private sector so as to play its key role in the development process in South Sudan.

This came at the Forum on Participation of the Private Sector in Reconstruction and Development in South Sudan, which was held Monday at the Friendship Hall under auspices of Assistant to President of the Republic and the Secretary General of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Bagan Amom. Dr. Nafie said that efforts in the coming period will focus on provision of basic services which started after the realization of peace in south Sudan.

He referred to the endeavors of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, under the supervision of the First V-P Salva Kiir, to provide services for the citizens in south Sudan, referring to the important role of the private sector and foreign capitals toward provision of services. Dr. Nafie appreciated convocation of the forum which is aimed to encourage the businessmen and businesswomen to establish investments in South Sudan.

The Minister of Finance, Al-Zubeir Ahmed Al-Hassan, also addressed the forum, pointing out that south Sudan which was affected by the longstanding war is needy for contribution of the private sector for establishment of development, infrastructural and services projects.

French-British pressures to convince Nur to join Tripoli talks

(*AlRai AlAam*) Britain has announced a new initiative on Darfur that includes extending support to embark on launching a comprehensive rehabilitation plan in the era of peace in Darfur Region.

British Foreign Office Minister for Africa Malloch-Brown said Monday he met with President Omer Albashir and delivered a message from the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to President Bashir dealing with his country's plan to handle Darfur issue and implement the hybrid operation.

He stressed Britain's keenness to react positively in all Darfur's dossiers and specially its contribution in convincing peace non-signatory factions to join the peace process. He added that Britain was committed to speed up the implementation of SC Resolution No. 1769 pointing that his country contacted France to exercise pressure on Nur to join the peace talks in Tripoli.

Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol, the British official noted that his visit to Sudan aims at listening to the Sudanese officials as well as giving more details about the initiative of the British Prime Minister on Darfur.

In this regard, he explained that the visit comes as part of the British concern with the African issue in general, and Darfur in particular, pointing out the initiative includes that Britain is to work with the international community on supporting Darfur in the post-war era. Meanwhile, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq, said the talks focused on bilateral relations as well as Britain's role in supporting Africa.

Ambassador Al-Sadiq said the British Prime Minister has a plan to calm down the situations, especially in the post-war era for development and rehabilitation. He added that the visit of the British official to Sudan is motivated by the fresh impetus in Sudan following the resolution No. 1769, the meeting of Arusha and after the visit of the Secretary General of the UN. The British minister said his country would focus on development and rehabilitation of Darfur in collaboration with the international and regional partners and that its plans in this respect would be presented later, said the spokesman.

Ambassador Al-Sadiq said the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lam Akol, briefed the British Minister on the political settlement process in Darfur, saying that the only impediment facing it is the faction of Abdul Wahid, urging Britain to exploit its good relations with France in order to press on him to join the peace negotiations.

Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS): population census includes Halaib Abyei and Darfur

(AlRai AlAam) CBS Director Prof. Awad Hag Ali Tuesday appealed to the government to provide the adequate financing of \$30 million prior to conducting the 5th population census in Feb. next year stressing that preparations are smoothly moving to hold the census in Darfur and the Southern states.

Hag Ali underlined that the census in Darfur states would be conducted, in coordination with the UN and the Native Administration, in the safe towns and IDPs camps saying that unsafe areas were abandoned by the citizens to either to the towns or the IDPs camps.

He indicated that excluding any area from the census was the responsibility of the Presidency of the Republic and not CBS in accordance with the Interim constitution emphasizing that the census would cover all Sudan including Halaib area in the Red Sea and Darfur States.

Hag Ali admitted the presence of obstacles for conducting census among the border tribes due to the increasing waves of migration across the borders.

Sudan's SPLM condemns detention of opposition leaders

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Sudan's coalition government partner on Monday condemned as "unconstitutional" the continued detention of opposition politicians accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Yassir Arman, deputy secretary general of the former southern rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), also deplored the recent crackdown on opposition and independent newspapers and the arrest of journalists.

"Mubarak al-Fadil and Ali Mahmoud Hassanein were arrested in violation of the constitution and its charter on human rights," he said, referring to two prominent opposition politicians.

Sudanese authorities detained a number of former army officers and opposition leaders in July, accusing them of a plot to bring down the government and of seeking to create chaos in the capital.

They included Fadil, head of the opposition Umma Party for Reform and Renewal, his party's secretary-general, Abdel Jalil al-Basha along with Hassanein, the deputy head of the large opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). None of the detainees has been charged.

Opposition parties may boycott elections

(Khartoum Monitor) The Popular Congress Party (PCP) blasted the government for attempting to pass the Elections Law bill amid opposition from other parties. In case the law is passed, opposition parties will boycott the elections, said Abdallah Hassan Ahmed, PCPs Deputy Secretary General.

Most parties had not been involved in the drafting of that law. Approval of that law will make the elections questionable, and opposition parties are pressing hard to prevent the law from being passed, he added.

The government must seek consensus over the law. When asked about reconciliation with the National Congress Party, he said reconciliation is not impossible but it depends on the handling of the origins of differences between the two parties in which removal of laws that restrict freedom and corruption control are key.

Arman to be reinstated in national Assembly

(Khartoum Monitor) The Deputy Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Northern Sector, Yasir Arman disclosed that he would be reinstated as a member of the national Assembly when the Assembly resume session.

The move followed intensive consultations with the Chairman and the leaders of SPLM in Juba last week.

Arman announced that the first Vice President, Salva Kiir, will tour all areas on the Northern Borders of South Sudan. The SPLM will carry on its initiative concerning realization of a comprehensive political settlement to the Darfur problem and will also carry on the building of its organizational structure in the Darfur state. The SPLM will also hold meetings with leaders and tribal chiefs in Darfur as well as civil society organizations, said Arman.

Sudan to issue arrest warrants for Darfur rebels

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) Sudan is preparing arrest warrants for six Darfur rebel leaders, accusing them of masterminding a bloody attack on a government base, the Justice Ministry said on Monday.

Khartoum said 41 people were killed when the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked a police base in the town of Wad Banda in Kordofan region, 200 km (125 miles) from the border with war-torn Darfur late last month.

The ministry said in a statement carried by state-run media the attack was "a criminal and terrorist act".

JEM claimed responsibility for the August 29 attack, but insisted it was on a military base, manned by 1,700 troops and used for launching government-backed raids against southern Darfur. The government denies the charges. JEM commanders were not available for comment.

The announcement of the arrest warrants came seven weeks before the start of peace talks between Khartoum and rebel groups, expected to take place in Libya on October 27. It also coincided with fresh reports of violence and lawlessness in war-torn Darfur.

SAF repulses attacks of Darfur rebels on Soudari North Kordofan

(*Al Khartoum*) SAF and armed Kababish tribesmen repulsed an attack on SAF in the Northern-Western of Soudari locality; North Kordofan by some Darfurian armed movements.

MP of Soudari constituency Al-Sharif Al-Muntaki told journalists Monday that the attackers ambushed a truck in Ageeba area saying that the truck was restored along with its belongings, while the attacker fled away. He pointed out that injured persons from both sides were not identified yet following the exchange of intensive fire between the two sides.

He attributed the repeated incidents in the area to the terrible needs of the armed movements to the food supplies calling the Interior Military presence in the border areas.

British Minister travels to Sudan

(APP): British Minister Lord Malloch-Brown has arrived in Khartoum on his first visit to Sudan as Foreign Office Minister for Africa to reaffirm the UK's commitment to finding a lasting, peaceful and inclusive solution to the situation in Darfur. According to an FCO news release Monday, Lord Brown is expected to meet the President of Sudan, Omar al Bashir, Foreign Minister Lam Akol, other senior government's leaders, tribal and civil society representatives, and AU and UN representatives.

Darfur

SLM-Minnawi`s hints to take action against police

(*Alwan*) SLM Minnawi`s movement has held the police responsible of Mohandissen incident basing their evidence on the court`s verdicts, which acquitted the movement`s defendants in the case.

Defense Representatives advocate Abdul Bagi Daw El Bait told a press conference that the police lost wisdom, when it dashed into the SLM`s rest house; a matter which left casualties on both sides saying that cautious was the police main responsibility.

He commended the high professionalism displayed by the court denying the presence of any evidences against the defendants.

IDPs demands UN to implement oil for food program

(*Rai AlShaab*) The IDPs in Darfur States have demanded the implementation of food for oil program, deployment of the hybrid forces and securing the villages in accordance with international standards. In a memo they raised to the UN Chief Ki Moon during his recent tour to the region, the IDPs, requested the implementation of twelve items including the suspension of the activities of the settlement and rehabilitation and lands commissions.

They called for disarming the Janjaweed, expulsion government-backed armed groups from the camps, halting various sorts of detention, release of all detainees, deportation of all emigrants from the neighboring.

They reiterated their insistence on individual and collective compensations and rejection to the Abuja agreement calling for handing over of war criminals to the ICC.

Rebels claim Sudan bombed Darfur town

(*REUTERS*) Sudanese government aircraft bombed a rebel-held town in Darfur yesterday, insurgent groups said, hours after the government said it was investigating a bloody rebel raid on one of its bases last month.

Reports of the attack came seven weeks before rebel groups and the Khartoum government are set to meet for peace talks, and coincided with renewed calls from the United Nations for the two sides to cease hostilities and prepare for the arrival of a 26,000-strong force of UN/African Union peacekeepers.

Abu Bakr Mohammed Kadu, a field commander in the Sudanese Liberation Army's Unity (SLA-Unity) faction, said government Antonov planes and helicopter gunship attacked Haskanita, and then ground forces entered the town in north Darfur from just after 3pm local time (1200 GMT).

Abdel Aziz Al Nur Ashr, from the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) which also has forces in the town, said rebels had fought off the ground attack after three hours. "We have captured 50 government troops and a Brigadier," he said. "The

government is just interested in pushing us out of our areas. It is not interested in peace talks."

Abdel Aziz added that seven fighters from the joint JEM/SLA-Unity force had died in the attack. "We still do not know the number of civilian casualties," he added. Sudanese military officials were not available for comment.

GoSS

SPLA troops allowed to move in Mujlad in civilian dress

(Sudan Vision) The official spokesman of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Brig. Dr. Mohamed Al-Agbash, stated that the Joint Defence Council had its last session prohibited the carrying of arms without assignment by either SAF or the SPLA.

Al-Agbash further revealed that SPLA troops have withdrawn from Al-Dabab area where they assembled last Saturday after moving from Mujlad which is considered part of North. He added that the two partners will ensure that withdrawal has been implemented to the south of the borderline of 1st January, 1956 from the areas of Al-Dabab and Abu-Matarig by next Saturday. He explained that these forces have been told to move in civilian clothes and not to carry any weapons for the purpose of controlling gun carriers and the movement of the forces.

The ceasefire Commission had last Saturday ordered the SPLA troops to move out to Mujlad immediately after being besieged there.

SPLM calls for the release of Al Fadil Al Mahdi and Hassanein

(Rai AlShaab) SPLM's Deputy Secretary-General Yassir Arman has called for the immediate release of President of Umma Party (Reform & Renewal) Mubarak Al-Mahdi and Deputy President of the Democratic Party Ali Mahmoud Hassanein. He said that their detention was considered as a violation to the constitution.

Arman stressed that the SPLM was so concerned of creating positive relation with the NCP in a bid to bring about the required democratic transformation. He decried the journalists' arrests and confiscation of press freedom pointing out that these were flagrant violation to the constitution and human rights convention.

NCP Southern Sector Chairman defects NCP and joins SPLM

(Rai AlShaab) A leading NCP Southern politician broke away from the NCP and joined the SPLM attributing his defection to the lack of transparency on the part of NCP.

NCP President Assistant, Chairman of the NCP's Southern Sector and Deputy Speaker of the South Legislative Assembly Toar Deng told journalists on Monday that the causes of his defection was motivated by the absence of transparency on the oil revenues and the ambiguity shrouded the Abyei dossier.

He accused the NCP of lacking a clear-cut political program for South Sudan, adding that the NCP's leaderships neglected the south sector and dealt directly with the SPLM's leaders.

He assured a lot of NCP members from the South would declare their defection from the NCP during the coming days and joining the SPLM, saying that most of the Southern people joined the NCP for the realization of peace.

Salva Kiir says "Sudan will likely reverse again to war"

(Sudan Tribune.Com) First Vice-President and President of GoSS, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, has accused his partner in the national coalition government of hampering the implementation of 2005 peace deal, he further warned that Sudan will reverse again to war.

In his speech at the opening of the second session of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly Salva Kiir expressed his deep concern and worry about the status of the CPA implementation. "Today - and I do not want to mince my words - the feeling is not the same. I am alarmed, worried and deeply concerned about the status of CPA implementation." Adding "I'm worried Mr. Speaker that it is likely that Sudan will reverse again to war if we do not act now with our partner NCP."

South Sudan Vice President meets SLM leader in Paris

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The Vice President of the GoSS, Riek Machar, arrived in Paris, France on Sunday Morning to hold talk with the rebel SLM/SLA Chairman Abdel Wahid Mohamed Ahmed al-Nur.

According to Sudan Tribune information, Machar has met al-Nur but no details are available about the meeting. The Southern Sudan Vice President cancelled a press conference scheduled this morning in Paris at the last minute.

The SPLM undertaking contacts with the SLM rebel leader to persuade him to join the peace talks mediated by the United Nations and the African Union. Nonetheless Nur wants Khartoum commitment to stop violence s and the deployment of the international force to ensure protection of Darfur civilians.