



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS

Media Monitoring Report, 17 September 2007
(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients..

IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Darfur AU-UN force deputy chief arrives in Sudan
- Amira Haq appointed as DSRSG

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- Sudan's NCP regrets raid against SPLM offices in Khartoum
- Bashir says no return to war in south Sudan
- Foreign Minister to lead Sudan delegation to UN General Assembly
- EU envoy- Foreign Ministry discuss situation in Darfur

➤ **GoSS**

- The SPLM adopts contradictory stances
- Sudan Joint Defense Body urges police to apologize after raid on Barracks
- Lagu wants harmony with Uganda , Kenya, Ethiopia
- Government: Investigation on Garang assassination should start from the SPLM
- SPLA assesses losses following crack down by police on its premises
- Machar fails to convince Nur and agrees with JEM

➤ **Darfur**

- Darfur war crimes suspect says travel possible despite ICC arrest warrant
- Thousands flee in Darfur Jebel Marra - Red Cross
- Darfur rebels call assembly ahead of peace talks
- Worldwide demonstrations remand settlement of Darfur crisis, British PM pledges aid peacekeepers
- March demands action for Darfur
- Jamous speaks from Chad, advocates for political solution to Darfur crisis

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Darfur AU-UN force deputy chief arrives in Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16 Sept. KHARTOUM) The deputy commander of the AU-UN force arrived on Friday 14 September in Khartoum to meet a number of Sudanese officials to explore means of coordination with the government to execute his duties.

The deputy commander of the hybrid force, General Karenzi Karake, arrived in Khartoum to hold talks with Sudanese officials to know each other and pave the way for him to assume his duties in the country.

General Kerenzi Karake was named on August 14 as the second-in-command for joint United Nations-African Union peacekeepers, but has since been accused of abuse of power involving detained extremists of the country's Hutu ethnic group.

A Brussels-based Rwandan exile group has accused General Karenzi Karake of supervising extra-judicial killings of civilians before and after Tutsi-led rebels took power in Rwanda following the country's 1994 genocide.

The Rwandan government denied the charge. While the United Nations has asked international human rights groups to submit any information they have on Karake, 46, to discover whether there is any basis to the allegations.

Rwanda fields some 2,000 of 7,000 AU troops now in Darfur, and is proud of its peacekeeping role.

Amira Haq appointed as Deputy SRSG

(*AlAyam*) Amira Haq, a Bangladeshi national, has officially assumed its duties in Sudan as Deputy SRSG and Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator to Sudan following her nomination during the recent visit of UN Chief Ban Ki-Moon to Khartoum.

Amira had previously held the following post respectively, Deputy Special Representative of UNSG in Afghanistan, Resident Representative of UNDP in Afghanistan, Deputy Director of UNDP Crisis Prevention Office in New York and Resident Representatives for the UNDP in and Malaysia Nigeria respectively.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's NCP regrets raid against SPLM offices in Khartoum

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. KHARTOUM) The National Congress Party (NCP) has regretted police raid that targeted three SPLM offices in the Sudanese capital on 11 September during campaigns to find and confiscated unlicensed weapons.

Presidential assistant and the deputy chairman of the ruling National Congress, Nafi Ali Nafi, has regretted the raid against its peace partner during a meeting for the joint NCP SPLM political committee on Saturday 15 September.

He told the SPLM delegation that what had happened was regrettable. "It is unjustified and incorrect action" Nafi said.

Yassir Arman, deputy secretary general of the SPLM, hailed the move. He said regret and criticism of the police raid against the SPLM premises by the NCP is a "good and courageous position."

Bashir says no return to war in south Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com* – 17 Sept. ROME) Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir said on Friday 14 September that the Sudanese Army had no intention of going to war again in South Sudan, despite problems surrounding the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Bashir was responding to a question from an Italian reporter on statements made earlier in the week by First Vice president and the head of the Government of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, warning of a possible return to war in South Sudan, because of what he considered as feet-dragging on the implementation of the CPA.

Bashir said the main problems included in addition to Abyei the demarcation of borders between North and South Sudan, an issue which he said had no easy solution and required extensive work. He said Sudanese delegations have paid recent visits to the United States, Europe, and Egypt in order to search for maps that might help in defining the borders prevailing during colonial rule, accepted as the legitimate borders in the African continent. He noted that the work of the border demarcation committee would have to stop during the rainy season.

Other problems cited by Bashir included a population census now scheduled for next February. He said no agreement has been reached yet on a specific date for the general and presidential elections stipulated for late 2008 or early 2009 under the terms of the CPA.

Foreign Minister to lead Sudan delegation to UN General Assembly

(*SUNA*– 16 Sept. New York) The 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly is due to begin in New York next Tuesday and that Sudan will participate in the meetings by a delegation to be led by Foreign Minister, Dr. Lam Akol.

Sudan ambassador to the United Nations, Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim, told SUNA that the minister will deliver Sudan's address before the Assembly in which he will explain the efforts adopted by the government of Sudan for realization of security and peace in the country, besides regional and international issues of concern to Sudan and the region.

He said that Dr. Akol will participate in a meeting on Darfur to be held next Friday and to be co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General and the Chairman of the African

Union Commission in which they will review political and humanitarian axes as well as the hybrid operation in Darfur.

He said that the minister will also take part in a series of coordinating meetings of Arab Foreign Ministers, Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, Group of 77 and China and a ministerial meeting on the Sino-African relations. Sudan ambassador to the UN pointed out that a special summit on climate changes is scheduled to be held in New York on September 24th, adding that Sudan will participate by a delegation chaired by Minister of Environment and Physical Development, Dr. Ahmed Babiker Nihar. Meanwhile, presidents and heads of state and government of Security Council would hold a meeting on September 25th to discuss issues of security and stability in Africa.

EU envoy- Foreign Ministry discuss situation in Darfur

(*AlAyam*) Foreign State Minister Al-Samani Al-Wasila Sunday discussed with the EU Special Representative to Sudan recent developments of Darfur crisis and the planned talks between the government and peace non-signatory factions, next Oct. in Tripoli, Libya.

Al-Wasila called on the international community to cooperate with the Sudanese government to speed up the process of peace in a bid to put an end to the agony in Darfur war-torn region.

He urged, at the same the international community to call on the armed movements to halt hostile activities and abide by cease fire assuring the government's commitment to the cease-fire agreement. On his part, the EU official expressed the EU readiness to bolster the peace process in Darfur calling on the various factions to take part in the talks.

GoSS

The SPLM adopts contradictory stances

(*Sudan vision daily* – 16 Sept. KHARTOUM) The SPLM, the main partner in the Sudanese Government of National Unity, has protested the operation that was carried out by the Sudanese police and security organs to collect illegal arms in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. Immediately upon the commencement of the operation, the SPLM has stepped up its protest over the operation and considered the operation as an attempt to target the SPLM. The SPLM has issued statements and held meetings concerning this issue.

A number of the observers believe that the said SPLM action could push every body to believe that the SPLM is evading its national responsibilities or trying to hide something as no body could oppose the reality that the presence of illegal arms in Khartoum is a major security threat. Thus, the peace agreements of Naivasha and Abuja have included security arrangements to avoid spread of weapons in the urban areas because it represents a direct threat to stability.

The SPLM knows that the operation to collect illegal arms in Khartoum serves the interest of the country as whole not any specific party. The operation aims to collect illegal arms from the citizens not to punish them or humiliate any party.

The strange thing was that no movement has protested the operation but the SPLM. Probably, adoption of such stances, which were motivated by the SPLM feeling that it is targeted by the police forces, is considered one of the main contradictions of the SPLM which claims living up to the political and executive responsibility in a time when it avoids taking any legal actions that serve the national interests.

Sudan Joint Defense Body urges police to apologize after raid on Barracks

(Khartoum Monitor) the Joint defense Board (JDB) called on the police, National Security and intelligence service to officially apologize the Joint integrated units (JIU) after the raid on its Barracks in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

The Sudanese authorities on 11 September implemented campaigns to find and confiscate illegal weapons in Khartoum. They affirmed that the campaign had targeted all of Khartoum State's localities where information indicated the presence of illegal weapons.

The JDB spokesperson, Major General Bior Ajang, told *AlSudani* newspaper that they are not against the collection of unlicensed weapons. However as regular force, they reject to be designated as objective in such an operation. The JDB spokesperson said that JIUs soldiers didn't expect the move. He added that they were disarmed for a while before the restitution of their weapons.

Lagu wants harmony with Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia

(The Citizen) The former president of the Higher Executive Council and V.P of the Sudan, Joseph Lagu has said South Sudan must strengthen its relations with her neighbors, as he dismissed reports that Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia have taken over land that belongs to South Sudan.

"My home is five meters away from the Uganda border, and I have not seen Uganda take over the land" Lagu told a public forum in Juba in On Saturday, which was meeting to hear the experts talk about South Sudan boundary.

The leader of Ananya 1 rebellion also said that at one time during the Ananya war, Kenya confiscated land belonging to Sudan. But later after the peace agreement, the Kenyan minister told him that the confiscation was meant for defense purposes, with Kenyan intending to join the war in on the part of Sudan in case the Arabs tried to drive the southerners out of the region.

South Sudan's border is not well demarcated, and the fears that the neighbors could have encroached on the land during the time of the war have been flying around for a while. The former V.P also called for understanding with the neighbors. He said Uganda and Kenya and Ethiopia should be respected because they played a major role in the liberation.

Government: Investigation on Garang assassination should start from the SPLM

(*AlHayat, SMC*) National Investigation Committee formed previously to probe reasons behind late first vice president and chairman of SPLM Dr John Garang crash plane, announces that it was difficult to reopen investigation of the case.

The reporter of former committee ambassador Siraj Al Dein Hamid said demanding reopening the case is something for political consumption. However, he said if there was chance to probe the case again may be that could be possible to start from within the SPLM itself.

Hamid noted that investigation in the crash plane has done by international experts in collaboration with Sudanese nationals. The committee members have collectively set a report in transparent and careful way

SPLA assesses losses following crack down by police on its premises

(*AlAyam*) The SPLM has set up a committee to assess results of inspection crackdown undertaken by police last week to the SPLM's premises in Khartoum State.

SPLM Secretary in Khartoum State Eng. Paul Deng warned of distorting the files containing the SPLM's membership in the National Capital disclosing, at the same time, initiative to bridge the gap with the police.

Deng said that the regular SPLM's meeting, held in Khartoum North, stressed the necessity of forming a committee to assess violations committed last week by police to the premises of the SPLM.

In another issue, Deng appealed to the Non-Muslim Protection Commission to handle complains of restaurants owners due the increase of fees imposed during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Machar fails to convince Nur and agrees with JEM

(*AlSudani*) GoSS Vice-President Reiak Machar Sunday admitted his failure following seven encounters between them to drag on SLM Leader Abdul Wahid Nur to join the peace talks, next Oct. in Libya. Machar, who is currently shuttling between Britain and France to settle a conflict between two oil companies, told (*AlSudani* daily) that Nur was insisting on his rejection to the talks and adherence to his declared demands.

On his part, JEM Spokesman Ahmed Hussein told the paper that a JEM delegation discussed with Dr. Machar the role of the SPLM in unifying the various factions vision prior to the scheduled talks, saying that they agreed with the SPLM to set up a constant channel of contacts between the two parties as regards the peace talks.

Darfur

Darfur war crimes suspect says travel possible despite ICC arrest warrant

(*SudanTribune.com* – 15 Sept. KHARTOUM) A Sudanese minister accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) said he is not afraid of traveling abroad despite a pending arrest warrant against him.

The minister of state for humanitarian affairs, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, sounding defiant told the daily Al-Rayaam newspaper that he is not concerned about the International Police (INTERPOL) red notices distributed worldwide asking for his arrest.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) circulated a notice for the arrest of Haroun last June. The ICC has an agreement with the INTERPOL enabling it to use its telecommunications network and databases.

However Haroun acknowledged that he has not traveled since the arrest warrants saying that as a government official “traveling is governed by the benefits sought from such a trip”.

Haroun was in Jordan, the only Arab country who is party to the ICC, for medical treatment when the ICC Chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced charges against him late February. The Sudanese minister returned immediately to Khartoum that day.

The war crimes suspect said the involvement of the ICC in Darfur is a political one and not judicial. He also said that Ocampo can do nothing “but talk to the press”.

Analysts say that it is unlikely that the Sudanese government will allow Haroun to travel abroad given the pending arrest warrants against him.

Thousands flee in Darfur Jebel Marra - Red Cross

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16 Sept. KHARTOUM) Thousands of villagers in Darfur’s Jebel Marra are fleeing for the safety of refugee camps amid violence or difficult economic situation, the Red Cross said today.

Many of these IDPs had already been displaced several times since the conflict began in 2003, moved to Dom Jong, Fujo, Fatma Karal, Kutrum, Kwila, Boldong, Kati and Kurifal in remote areas of Western Jebel Marra between June and August, the Red Cross said in its news bulletin distributed today.

The Red Cross indicated that many of these IDPs fled there to escape the fighting or out of fear of attack; others were forced to move by their deteriorating economic situation or their increasing isolation and lack of access to services in remote places."

Also, rebel sources in Jebel Marra told Sudan Tribune that recent floods have cut off many villages and made thousands homeless. They said that even displaced people were forced flee because water attacked their vulnerable shelters.

This population movement affects the already fragile situation of residents and formerly displaced people in the region. A health team supplied Golol clinic with additional furniture and extra drugs such as antimalarials, antibiotics, painkillers, anaemia and deworming tablets to cope with the health needs of the displaced and residents. Over 2,000 medical consultations were held at the clinic in recent weeks.

Darfur rebels call assembly ahead of peace talks

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16 Sept. KHARTOUM) A Darfur rebel group said on Sunday it was planning an assembly of fighters, supporters and displaced families to work out demands ahead of peace talks with Khartoum set for October.

Khalil Ibrahim, head of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), said he expected more than 2,000 people to attend the meeting in an undisclosed rebel-held area of Darfur on Oct. 25, two days before the peace talks start in Libya.

"We want everyone to come, supporters here, supporters abroad, refugees, IDPs (internally displaced people), students, women. It will take place in a liberated area. We want to talk about peace, about their demands, so we can take them to the peace talks," he said.

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir released a joint statement with the United Nations on Sept. 6 agreeing to hold talks in Libya on Oct. 27, cease hostilities in Darfur and prepare for the arrival of a 26,000-strong joint U.N. and African Union peacekeeping force.

Ibrahim urged Bashir to cease hostilities before the talks, saying violence in the interim could threaten their success.

Bashir has said his government was willing to observe a ceasefire in Darfur from the start of the Libyan negotiations.

Fighting has continued in the western region since the talks were announced. Last week, JEM and another rebel group accused the government of using helicopter gunships and Antonov aircraft to attack their positions in the northern town of Haskanita. The government said it had been caught in a rebel ambush.

Worldwide demonstrations remand settlement of Darfur crisis, British PM pledges aid peacekeepers

(*Al Rai AlAam, AlAyam, Reuters*) The conflict in Darfur has drawn the attention of the globe where thousands of demonstrators took Sunday to the streets in more than 30 countries worldwide calling on the international world's leaders to take drastic actions to urgently find out durable and lasting solution.

In London, scores of activists put on blindfolds on Sunday as part of Darfur Day, while demonstrators in Rome wore T-shirts printed to look like blood-stained hands.

The various protests all symbolized the international community's failure to act to stop the atrocities being carried out in Sudan's troubled western region.

The Rome protesters carried a peace torch, which they said had been lit in Chad where there are hundreds of thousands of Darfur refugees.

UN General Assembly. Organizers, who planned protests in more than 30 countries, said some in the international community had become complacent since the UN Security Council approved plans in July for a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force for the vast region.

Campaigners are demanding that the force be deployed quickly, and that the world's most powerful countries put pressure on all sides in the conflict until attacks on civilians stop.

In a video made to mark Darfur Day, Desmond Tutu, the South African archbishop, called Darfur "the world's largest concentration of human suffering", adding "it's also entirely avoidable if people speak out".

In a BBC interview as human rights groups prepared protests and marches in a "Global Day for Darfur" in around 30 countries, *Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Sunday pledged technical support for peacekeepers* due to go to Sudan's Darfur region, but warned Khartoum of possible further sanctions if it failed to make "necessary changes".

Brown described as "one of the great tragedies of our time" the 4 1/2-year Darfur conflict.

Britain, Sudan's former colonial ruler, says it will not contribute soldiers to the 26,000-strong joint U.N. and African Union peacekeepers in line with Khartoum's demand for a predominantly African presence in Darfur.

Brown's promise of "technical help" was understood to mean airlifting African peacekeepers to the region or possibly supplying equipment to help them operate.

Brown told the BBC a ceasefire and political settlement was needed and the peacekeeping force should be deployed this year, but officials have indicated next year was more likely.

March demands action for Darfur

(*Press Association* – 16 Sept.) Demonstrators marched to Downing Street to demand action for Darfur. The UN assembly in New York next week is due to urge international governments to step up to their responsibilities in the war torn region. Campaigners are demanding the full and swift deployment of a recently authorized peacekeeping force and calling for international pressure on all sides until attacks on civilians stop.

The march coincides with the second anniversary of the UN "responsibility to protect" agreement. This saw world governments vow to act to stop genocide and mass atrocities wherever they occur in the world. But two years after that declaration campaigners say the international community has yet to fulfill their commitments to Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed.

The march saw demonstrators march from the Sudanese Embassy through the capital to Number 10. Bearing placards that said: "Darfur: Don't Look Away" and "Protect Darfur", they chanted: "Stop killing in Darfur" and "Peace for Darfur".

Jamous speaks from Chad, advocates for political solution to Darfur crisis

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) SLM (Unity Faction) Suleiman Jamous told in a telephone interview with (*Akhbar Alyaum*) that he was flown to Chad by the United Nations after 15-month confinement in a UN hospital in Kadogli, South Kordofan.

Jamous, was the humanitarian coordinator of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), was considered as the key liaison between rebels and the world's largest aid operation.

The United Nations had moved him to the hospital in the town of Kadugli more than a year ago, without informing Khartoum. Sudan has called him a criminal and said it would arrest him if he left U.N. care.

However, the government gave the green light for Jamous to seek medical treatment abroad after a campaign by international activists, which culminated in a request by UN Chief Moon on his recent visit to Sudan to allow Jamous to go abroad for further treatment.

He told (*Akhbar Alyaum* daily) that he believes in the political solution to the conflict in Darfur stressing he is a democratic politician and he is in constant contacts with the various rebel leaders and will abide by the collective decision towards the coming talks. He called on the government to respect the rights and duties of others and urging the armed groups to work for a peaceful solution for the sake of Darfur people