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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

## **Money laundering, human trafficking rampant in mining areas**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 05/08/10* – Minister of Mining, Abdulgadir Al-Jailani, expects the number of people carrying out unregulated mining activities in the country to soon increase to two million. Speaking at the opening session of a workshop on Traditional Mining Practices yesterday, the minister warned of the negative impacts of unregulated mining on the environment.

On his part, the Director of the Central Investigation Department, Abdeen Al-Tahir, underlined the need to regulate the mining trade. Al-Tahir pointed out that there are a number of sinister activities including money laundering and human trafficking. The law has to be enforced in those areas because, he said, the miners feel they are above the law.

The workshop drew participants from the affected states of river Nile, Red Sea, Blue Nile, Northern State and Northern Kordofan. Participants from these states voiced their rejection to the proposal that each person pays a 2% tax from what they dig out.

## **Development projects for the sake of unity – VP Taha**

*Al-Ayyam Al-Mujlad, 05/08/10* – Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha says the development projects currently in the pipeline are aimed at consolidating the options for unity, peaceful coexistence, justice and revival. Addressing yesterday a mass rally in Al-Mujlad in Southern Kordofan, the VP expressed optimism that the strong will of the people of Sudan will help preserve unity. He revealed that he and President Al-Bashir will officiate in the inauguration of a number of development project in Abyei in November.

VP Taha officiated over the inauguration of the Al-Mujlad to Abyei and the Al-Mairam to Aweil roads that are both funded through the Unity Support Fund.

## **SPLA sends reinforcements to hunt down LRA in Bahr-el-Ghazal**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Juba, 05/08/10* – Governor Rizik Zakaria of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State said during a security assessment tour of the state that LRA attacks in some areas in the state has brought fear to the people. He revealed that the local SPLA command has deployed additional troops to the risk areas Raja following recent LRA attacks. This, he said, has deterred LRA from further attacks. He also revealed that the SPLA is holding an LRA suspect for interrogation and the situation in the state is now under control.

## **SAF rebuffs reports of JEM movement north**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 05/08/10* – The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) has rebuffed recent reports of JEM soldiers headed towards Northern State. Army Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khalid described the reports as fabrications and mere rumours spread by hostile parties.

## **West Darfur and UNAMID agree to hand over camp suspects**

*Al-Ayyam Zalengei, 05/08/10* – The Government of west Darfur and the UNAMID have agreed that suspects behind the violent conflicts in Al-Hamedia IDP camp be handed over to the local authorities. Zalengei County Commissioner Abdullah Ahmed Al-Amin said following a meeting between government and UNAMID representatives that the two sides have agreed that

police posts be established inside the camp to provide more security and security coordination. He said that state authorities also underlined the need to disarm civilians in the camp.

He said that UNAMID accepted all the suggestions on condition that security continues to prevail in the camp.

### **Darfur rebel leader praises UNAMID refusal to handover Kalma residents**

*Sudantribune.com Paris, 04/08/10* – SLM leader Abdulwahid Al-Nur on 4<sup>th</sup> August praised the refusal of the UNAMID to handover six residents of Kalma camp in South Darfur State wanted by the local authorities after bloody clashes last week.

"We welcome the decision of the hybrid peacekeeping operation (UNAMID) to not handover six Internally Displaced people – five men and one woman—sheltered in its office in Kalma camp," Al-Nur said.

The Paris based rebel leader made his statement following a meeting with the Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole on Wednesday in the French capital to discuss the latest developments in Darfur following the recent clashes between two groups of the IDPs in Kalma camps over their representation in the peace process.

"We had a very positive and constructive meeting," Al-Nur said. He further stressed that Bassole reassured him about the UNAMID commitment to protect civilians in western Sudan including the six people wanted by South Darfur authorities.

He also said he had spoken all the day with different local leaders urging them to cool down the tension inside the camps and to work hard restore calm and reconciliation between the residents pointing out that "only Sudanese government benefits from such divisions".

Al-Nur said wanted civilians might face torture and killing if they are handed to the Sudanese authorities following a formal demand by South Darfur Governor Abdel Hamid Musa Kasha.

He also said the Sudanese justice is not independent and totally under the control of the government stressing that their handover would create more troubles in the camp.

The rebel leader accused the government of working to dismantle the camp as part of its new policy called "domestication of the peace process".

He further urged the UN Security Council to well consider changing the mandate of the UNAMID from Chapter 6 to Chapter 7 and to give the largest peacekeeping operation the necessary means to fully protect the civilians in the restive region.

### **Unification of Humanitarian Work in North and South Sudan**

*SMC Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the Humanitarian Aid and Disasters Administration in south Sudan have signed a joint protocol centralizing humanitarian work in the country.

Head of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) Suleiman Abdurrahman said in a statement yesterday that the southern Sudan humanitarian body had requested expertise from the north. He revealed that an agreement has been reached to unify humanitarian work in the country besides establishing a database for the unified procedures to regulate foreign and local aid groups.

## **US oil companies invited to explore in Sudan**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 05/08/10* – There are plans to invite US oil companies to operate in Sudan, whatever the outcome of the forthcoming referendum, reveals Federal Minister of Petroleum, Lual Deng. He pointed out that this is within the framework of the agreement that the US assist to restore stability and shore up development in the Sudan.

Minister Lual further pointed out that Sudan and China have reached a deal over the issue of ownership of the oil pipeline from Higlieng to Port Sudan. Ownership of the pipeline should have been transferred to Sudan since September 2006, as per an earlier agreement between the two sides. The two sides have now agreed that the Chinese company would continue to manage the pipeline but ownership would be transferred to a Sudanese consortium sometime this year.

Lual also pointed out that many southern Sudanese youths were not happy when they heard that studies have shown that an oil pipeline from southern Sudan to the Kenyan port of Mombasa would not be economically viable. But, he adds, what is important is the general interest of the people.

*Al-Ahdath* daily further quotes the minister as having said that the oil ministry is keen to invite all those international organizations that doubt the oil revenue figures to investigate the truth for themselves. He reportedly added that Global Watch that has been critical of the oil revenue figures is among the organizations that have been invited.

## **SLM-MM urges SPLM to revive its Darfur peace initiative**

*The Citizen Khartoum, 05/08/10* – The Minni Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM) has urged the SPLM to revive and execute its initiative to help bring in the leader of JEM's Dr. Khalil and the SLM's Abdulwahid to the peace tables in order to reach a comprehensive solution to the conflict. SLM-MM Spokesperson Zu-el-Noon Suleiman criticized the SPLM for the delay in following up on its initiative.

Zu-el-Noon lashed out on the media reporting of the Darfur conflict saying that they contribute to complicating the issue.

## **Sudan to lift pre-publication censorship from newspapers**

*The Citizen Khartoum, 05/08/10* – The General Director of National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), Mohamed Atta, announced yesterday that pre-publication censorship will be lifted from newspapers within three days. Atta made the announcement in a meeting with the delegation of the Communist Party last Tuesday.

## **WFP requests protection for its staff in Darfur**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 05/08/10* – A statement issued by UNAMID yesterday notes that the WFP has requested protection for its staff on the ground in Darfur. The statement that comes in the wake of a meeting in El-Fasher between UNAMID and WFP representatives further reveals that the two sides discussed the measures in the pipeline for such protection.

# Referendum Monitor:

## Referendum Commission members differ over selection of Secretary-General

*Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 05/08/10* – Informed sources intimate that members of the South Sudan Referendum Commission have locked horns over the appointment of the Commission's Secretary-General. Members of the Commission from the SPLM are accusing their NCP counterparts of seeking to delay the process, the sources reveal. According to them, the two sides are also yet to resolve the differences over the formation of the Abyei Referendum Commission.

In a separate development, SPLM figure Pagan Amum has ruled out the establishment of a US military base in southern Sudan if the country separates. Amum who was speaking at a press conference in Cairo pointed out that southern Sudan is an area that is emerging from conflict and wants to preserve the peace with all its neighbours.

## South Sudan drafts national anthem

*The Citizen Khartoum, 05/08/10* – The Southern Sudan National Anthem Committee is drafting a seven-stanza national anthem titled, "Land of the Kush". The anthem would focus on the region's history, land, people, struggle, sacrifices, destiny and the flag. Writers and poets have been invited to compose for the anthem under stipulated guidelines. The verses have to be in simple language, in English and should have the tune, sources reveal.

## Concerns raised about tension in Sudan ahead of referendum

*UN News New York, 05/08/10* - The Head of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations says there's more tension in Sudan ahead of a January 2011 independence referendum on unity. Alain Le Roy has stressed the importance of solving all outstanding issues before the referendum takes place, including the issue of border demarcation.

He says it's the task of the international community to work in unison in order to facilitate consensus in the Sudan. His remarks come a day after both the country's ruling partners agreed in Cairo to hold the referendum as planned.

"In the minds of the people there's probably more tension. We have seen recent incursions with JEM (Justice and Equality Movement) which are not constructive, there is still tension going on in the country, that's obvious," says Le Roy.

Le Roy added: "We have that mandate to try to help them to get solutions. So far, they're having their meetings quite often and the meeting again in Cairo was useful. The UN and other actors, and the AU of course have a big role to play and others, the US, this organisation, Former President Thabo Mbeki, to try and facilitate these kinds of agreements."

He added it was important to keep insisting to the parties that it's absolutely crucial that there's a peaceful sequence in Sudan for the coming months that both commissions, one for southern Sudan and one for Abyei, should be established.

## Life for Church in north will probably become harder - Catholic group

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 04/08/10* - The northern Sudanese church will suffer if the south secedes from the north after a referendum next year according to a prominent South African catholic organization.

John Ashworth, the acting director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute told the Catholic news service *Zenit* that 'Life will probably become more difficult for the Church in the North after

secession of the South, as it will continue to live under an oppressive Islamist regime, but it has experienced this often before and no doubt it will survive.'

'On a day-to-day level many Christians, Muslims and followers of African traditional religions live side by side without problems,' said Ashworth.

'However, the government of Sudan is an Islamist regime and successive northern governments have had a policy of "Islamization" that has adversely affected non-Muslims.'

In his interview Ashworth said the southern government needed to improve but seemed confident southern Sudan would be a viable state should it choose to separate from the north.

'Southern Sudan is already functioning as a state, so for them secession will not be a major change on the ground. It is hoped that the progress will continue and that some of the weaknesses in the government will be challenged,' he said.

The Denis Hurley Peace Institute helped the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference produce their statement on the referendum last week.

### **Secessionists plotting to secure rights to independence for Darfur**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 05/08/10* – Secessionists within the SPLM are said to be devising a plot to ensure that Darfur and the Three Areas gain the right to self-determination. Sources close to the SPLM say the plot is to push the Popular Consultations issue in such a way until the Three Areas gain the right to self-determination in the same vein as what has happened in the south. Darfur will then follow and once the plot succeeds, Darfur, the Three Areas and Southern Sudan would then unite to form the New Sudan, the sources said.

### **Darfur may demand independence if referendum is conducted before peace**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 05/08/10* – The Popular Congress party (PCP) has warned that the conduct of the southern Sudan referendum ahead of a peace deal for Darfur may cause the people of Darfur to demand a referendum on self-determination. Prominent PCP member Abdalla Deng Nhial underlined yesterday the need to expedite the resolution of the Darfur conflict. He pointed out that peace can be realised in Darfur ahead of the referendum if the government is sincere in its efforts.

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