

15 July 2010

www.unmis.unmissions.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Highlights:

- Government has fully implemented the CPA – Al-Bashir (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- China avoids condemnation of ICC's fresh move against Bashir (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Sudan president to contact Darfur rebels (*Reuters*)
- Popular Council for Darfur tribes denounces ICC warrant on Al-Bashir (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Clashes in Sudan's Abyei drive away hundreds of inhabitants (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Committee formed to restructure SPLM-North (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- SSLA Deputy Speaker expels SPLM-DC MPs (*The Citizen*)
- Rains, flash floods wreak destruction in Aqeeq, eastern Sudan (*Al-Sahafa*)
- NCP says committed to a UN administered referendum for Darfur (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Sudan oil row threatens peace ahead of referendum (*The Guardian*)
- Qatari Emir accuses some Arab states of supporting South Sudan secession (*Sudantribune.com*)
- JEM claims victory in fresh fighting with Sudanese army (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan jails three opposition journalists: lawyer (*Reuters*)
- Indian airforce to withdraw choppers on duties in Africa (*ANI*)

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

- Sudan's North-South border states conference begins in Aweil (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan unprepared for south referendum: NGOs (*AFP*)
- Umma Party's Al-Mahdi wants referendum to be supervised by a neutral body (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Abyei Legislative Assembly wants borders demarcated (*Al-Ayyam*)
- EES deducts staff salaries for referendum (*The Citizen*)

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.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Government has fully implemented the CPA – Al-Bashir

Speaking to university lecturers yesterday, President Al-Bashir said that the government has implemented all benchmarks of the CPA minus border demarcation which would be implemented before the 2011 referenda, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. He said that this has also been attested by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission. Speaking at the conference of lecturers on unity support, the President challenged those who doubt the implementation of the CPA protocols on wealth and power sharing and on security arrangements to come up with evidence to support their doubts.

Al-Bashir went on to say that he believed that his recent tour of southern Sudan proved to him that unity still has a chance in the country.

China avoids condemnation of ICC's fresh move against Bashir

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/07/10 - The Chinese government today (14/07/10) appeared to move to a more neutral position regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant issued for Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

When the warrant was originally issued last year China was among the leading countries to criticize it saying it will complicate peace efforts in a nation which has suffered from chronic instability. It has also sought to convince western members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to adopt a resolution to freeze the indictment under Article 16 of the ICC statute.

This time, China's tone was much more reserved, and did not directly address the issuing of the warrant.

"We hope relevant sides will listen to the African Union, the League of Arab States and countries concerned, and play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in Sudan and the region," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang in reaction to the genocide charges.

China hopes the court "takes the overall situation into account and plays a constructive role in effecting long-term peace and stability in Sudan and the region", Qin added.

He added that positive progress had been made in the implementation of a peace agreement, and the overall situation regarding the Darfur issue was improving, which was welcomed by the international community and African countries.

In a related development the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union (AU) Jean Ping said the genocide charges will not solve Darfur's problems.

"Nothing has changed. This charge does not solve the problem in Darfur. In fact it is the contrary," Ping told Agence France-Presse (**AFP**).

"We have no problem with the ICC and we are against impunity. But the way prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is rendering justice is the issue," he added.

Similarly the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdurrahman Al-Attiyah today questioned the timing of the ICC decision.

Al-Attiyah said this might increase tension in Sudan, particularly since the decision contradicts Arab League and African Union reports on the issue of genocide in Darfur.

South Sudan president to contact Darfur rebels

Reuters Khartoum, 14/07/10 - South Sudan's president Salva Kiir will contact Darfur's two main rebel leaders in an unusually high level attempt to persuade them to join the region's troubled

peace process, his party said on Wednesday.

Kiir will speak to Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) founder Abdulwahid Al-Nur and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim and ask them to send delegations to the southern capital Juba, said a senior official.

Kiir, who is also the First Vice-President of Sudan as a whole, had decided to take a personal role in resolving the conflict, said Yassir Arman, a senior official in the SPLM.

"The FVP is the only person in the Presidency who can talk to both parties ... He is a reliable channel to smooth the communications," Arman told journalists.

Arman said Kiir was asked to intervene by Djibril Bassole, the joint U.N./African Union mediator currently coordinating faltering talks between Khartoum and an umbrella group of smaller rebel movements in Qatar.

It was not immediately clear whether Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and his National Congress Party (NCP) would welcome Kiir's direct contact with the Darfur insurgents.

Popular Council for Darfur tribes denounces ICC warrant on Al-Bashir

The Popular Council for Darfur Tribes for Peace and Unity has denounced the recent ICC charges of genocide levelled against President Al-Bashir dubbing it as "politically motivated", reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***. In a press release circulated yesterday, the Council accused western forces of hampering the peace process in the country but pointed out that these developments of the ICC would only increase the resilience of the people of Sudan in general and Darfur in particular who have elected President Al-Bashir.

Clashes in Sudan's Abyei drive away hundreds of inhabitants

Sudantribune.com *Wunrok*, 14/07/10 - A recent armed confrontation between local police and armed groups reportedly associated with some members of Misseriya tribe, in southern Kordofan state at the extreme eastern town of Abyei, has driven away at least 600 local residents from their homes.

The conflict has tripled the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the area, according to a local official working with the Khartoum-based Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Abyei.

"We have received 600 internally displaced persons from Tajlei [village] after the recent clash in the area last week. They are here in Abyei," said Bol Riing Alor.

Alor said members of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and HAC teams on the ground have reported serious humanitarian needs in the area. Tajlei and its surrounding area were in May 2008 spared from clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) over the control of the oil rich region.

The 2008 violence, which burned down the whole town to ashes, arose from several factors including land ownership, power struggle and political affiliation to ruling parties. The violence claimed lives of hundreds of innocent civilians mostly women, children and elderly.

The village hosts a small number of local inhabitants estimated to be 1000. A rapid assessment carried out by international organizations in the region in collaboration with UN agencies in response to movements of the population called for immediate assistance.

However, a group of local and international relief organizations have also reported restriction in the movement of their staff in areas adjacent to Tajlei from both Unity and Southern Kordofan states. Many in the area say they have suffered procedural steps since the start of the year. The most common among these were delays allegedly conducted for search operations at check points.

Committee formed to restructure SPLM-North

The SPLM Political Bureau and its national Liberation Council are due to hold separate meetings in Juba in an unspecified date in the near future to discuss the SPLM's strategic visions on a number of key issues, reports **Ajras Al-Hurriya**. The issues to be discussed include the referendum, the peace process for Darfur and democratic transformation, sources say.

SPLM Deputy Secretary-General, Yassir Arman, told a press conference yesterday that the party intends to carry out a restructuring of its Northern Sector in 9 states.

SSLA Deputy Speaker expels SPLM-DC MPs

Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker, Daniel Awet Akot, yesterday expelled three lawmakers on the SPLM-DC ticket who were recently released from police custody, **The Citizen** reports. He said that the lawmakers who were released recently through directives from the Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development would return to the House after the Minister of Internal Affairs gives his opinion on their release.

Rains, flash floods wreak destruction in Aqeeq, eastern Sudan

Some 33 people have died as a result of flash floods in the Aqeeq area located about 150km south of Port Sudan town, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Over one thousand heads of cattle were also lost to flash floods and heavy rains that struck the area yesterday morning.

The Commissioner has meanwhile formed a task force to address the situation following reports that over 250 houses were also destroyed in the area.

NCP says committed to a UN administered referendum for Darfur

The NCP says it has no objections towards a unified rule for the Darfur region, reports **Ajras Al-Hurriya**. NCP Secretary for External Relations Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters yesterday that the people of Darfur may be allowed to choose through a UN-administered referendum over whether they want to unify their region or preserve the status quo.

He also said he is not aware of intentions of the mediators to suspend the Doha peace talks for Darfur.

JEM claims victory in fresh fighting with Sudanese army

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/07/10 - The JEM announced on Tuesday that it clashed with Sudanese government troops in North Darfur.

Early in this morning, July 13th, 60 Land Cruiser vehicle of Sudan's army and militia obstructed JEM tours near Kuma, North Darfur. As expected the Genocidaire's force lost the battle and fled into Kuma town" said a statement by JEM military spokesman Ali Alwafi.

"Our forces pursued them inside the town and destroyed their military camp and captured 34 well-equipped vehicles".

The Joint African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) said in its daily briefing that it received unconfirmed reports of fighting between Government forces and JEM adding that verifications missions will be dispatched to confirm these reports.

On Monday, the army reported clashes involving JEM, one of the most militarized groups in Darfur, and its soldiers in the strategic Adula region between South Darfur, North Darfur and nearby North Kordofan province.

Sudan jails three opposition journalists: lawyer

Reuters Khartoum, 15/07/10 - A Khartoum court on Thursday jailed three opposition journalists after finding them guilty of destabilizing the constitutional system, their lawyer said, in the latest sign of a media crackdown.

A judge sentenced Abuzar al-Amin, the deputy editor in chief of the daily **Rai al-Shaab**, to five years in prison, and two other journalists, Ashraf Abdelaziz and Al-Tahir Abu Jawhara, to two years each.

"It is not reasonable to put journalists in prison for what they write with their pens. We will appeal," their lawyer, Abel Moneim Osman, told **Reuters**.

Osman said the judge also ordered the closure of **Rai al-Shaab**, which is linked to the Islamist opposition Popular Congress Party.

Indian Air Force to withdraw choppers on UN duties in Africa

New Delhi, July 15 (ANI): The Indian Air Force (IAF) will progressively phase out its helicopters currently used in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in the Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

Air Marshal N V Tyagi, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, said this while flagging-off a new contingent of the IAF to United Nations Peace Keeping Force (UNPKF) to Congo at New Delhi on Thursday.

He also noted that the helicopters pulled out from Congo would not be inducted in anti-Maoist operations, as reported by the media.

"The main tasks, which have needed attention, are air maintenance, border roads, and general tasks performed by helicopters. Naxal Maoist problem is recent in origin and whatever the requirements are would be met from the assets available," said Air Marshal N V Tyagi, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

He mentioned that in total 17 MI-17 and 8 MI-35 helicopters would be withdrawn by mid 2011.

The first contingent, which will be pulled out, consists of five MI-17 and four MI-35 helicopters.

The IAF's motive of peace keeping in Congo has also been enhanced to stabilisation operations.

"The Indian Air Force Contingent's basic motive was peace keeping but from first July it has changed to stabilisation operations.

Their primary role is to provide mobility to the forces and to take actions against those trying to destabilise peace," added Air Marshal N V Tyagi. (ANI)

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

Sudan's North-South border states conference begins in Aweil

Sudantribune.com Juba, 14/07/10 - A general security conference involving the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and the National Government kicked off on Wednesday in Aweil town, the capital of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state.

The conference aims at evaluating and improving the security situation between the adjacent states across the North-South border. The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Riek Machar Teny, arrived in Aweil on Wednesday, leading a high level delegation to the conference.

Machar will co-chair the conference with the 2nd Vice President of Sudan, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, who also leads the National Government delegation.

The two-day conference is a follow-up of a similar forum conducted last year in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan state, to build peace and good neighbourhood between populations and governments of the bordering states as the referendum approaches.

Wednesday's opening session witnessed presentations about the security situation between Southern and Northern states by their respective governors on both sides of the border.

In a related development, the Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce is preparing for negotiations with the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) on post-referendum issues due to begin in five days.

The Taskforce kicked off its first meeting yesterday in Juba after the official launch in Khartoum last week.

In the meeting chaired by Machar, the Taskforce discussed the preparations for the actual talks and directed individual ministers in their respective clusters to get organized with their sub-committees.

The Taskforce also deals with two other issues on the conduct of the referendum as well as the post-2011 governance in the South. It is an oversight body to assist the technical Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and prepare the environment in the South for the conduct of the referendum.

Sudan unprepared for south referendum: NGOs

AFP Khartoum, 14/07/10 - Sudan is "alarmingly" unprepared for a January referendum on southern independence and international intervention is urgently needed to prevent a return to civil war, a coalition of NGOs warned yesterday.

"The clock is ticking fast towards what might be the most important date in modern Sudanese history," the global coalition said in a report, referring to the January 9 referendum to decide on independence for south Sudan.

"Alarmingly, the current level of preparation is poor," the report warned.

The report by 24 international humanitarian and human rights organisations noted that the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) had ended more than two decades of civil war between north and south Sudan which left two million people dead.

It underscored that the referendum is a central provision of the peace agreement, deciding either on a united Sudan or full independence for the south, which has vast and largely untapped natural resources, including oil.

"The CPA has held north and south Sudan together and ended one of the deadliest conflicts of the 20th century," said Osman Hummida, head of the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, a member of the global coalition.

"A failed referendum could plunge Sudan back into war once more. The international community must now capitalise on the opportunity provided by the CPA and ensure that a free and fair referendum occurs," he said.

"The referenda in southern Sudan and Abyei are arguably the most momentous events to happen in Sudan since its independence in 1956," said the report, titled "Renewing the Pledge: Re-Engaging the Guarantors to the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement."

Qatari Emir accuses some Arab states of supporting South Sudan secession

Sudantribune.com Washington, 14/07/10 - The ruler of the Gulf state of Qatar pointed blame at some Arab states saying they have been supporting the ex-rebels in South Sudan in their pursuit of an independent state.

Southerners are to vote in a January 2011 referendum that could lead to the creation of a new state, which has vast and largely untapped natural resources, including oil.

The referendum is a central plank of a 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended more than two decades of war between Sudan's north and south. The semi-autonomous region is still recovering from the war during which about two million people were killed, in a conflict fuelled by religion, ethnicity, ideology and resources like oil.

The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani who made the remarks is currently on a visit to Sana'a in a bid to initiate mediation between the Yemeni government and its southern opponents amid escalating separatist violence in the south of the Arab country.

Al-Thani warned of the negative effects of separation on Yemen citing the example of Sudan.

"Sudan is paying the price of separation and, unfortunately there were Arab countries that joined Southerners in their endeavor to secede," said Qatari Emir.

However, Al-Thani did not specify which countries he was referring to in one of his rare comments on the issue of South Sudan, similar to other Arab Gulf state leaders who never made public remarks on the referendum.

Sudan oil row threatens peace ahead of referendum

The Guardian 14/07/10 - The civil war between north and south Sudan that claimed two millions lives could restart unless agreements over oil and borders are reached before an independence referendum in six months, says an authoritative new report.

A coalition of 26 international and local humanitarian organisations today warned that the country was "alarmingly unprepared" for the vote, which is likely see Africa's largest state split in two.

The poll on self-determination was the key part of the 2005 comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) that ended the two-decade war between the Arab-dominated north and the mostly non-Muslim south. The deal granted autonomy to south Sudan, which holds the bulk of the oil reserves that power the Sudanese economy, for an interim period of six years. During this time, the two sides were meant to explore options for unity.

But it appears inevitable that the people of south Sudan will overwhelmingly choose secession when they vote on 9 January, creating the world's newest country – and one of the least developed. A separate referendum will be held in the volatile, oil-rich Abyei region, where residents will vote on whether to join the north or the south.

Yet the report says the few of the most serious issues – especially those relating to oil and borders, which were meant to be resolved after the CPA – have been resolved. South Sudan currently gets 98% of its income from oil revenues under the remit of the Khartoum government, as part of the CPA. It will be landlocked as an independent state, and completely dependent on the pipeline through the north to export its oil. But there has been no deal on how this might work.

"An agreement to share the revenues from oil was instrumental in achieving peace between north and south Sudan," said Rosie Sharpe from Global Witness, a member of the coalition. "As preparations begin for the referendum and possible southern independence, it will be vital to resolve outstanding issues around oil in order to avert a return to war."

The report also expressed concern over "rumblings in Khartoum" that up to two million southern Sudanese living in the north could be deported or stripped of their citizenship if Sudan breaks up.

The authors called on the guarantors of the CPA – including the UK, the EU and the US – to ensure that the referendum is free and fair, and is held on time. They warned that Sudan was already "precariously close" to the point where meeting this goal was impossible.

Umma's Al-Mahdi wants referendum to be supervised by a neutral body

Umma Party supreme, Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, has reiterated calls for a revision of the CPA in such a way as to address the fears of the people of southern Sudan, reports **Al-Sahafa**. He said that such an exercise could be done through a roundtable discussion that brings together all unionist political forces in the country and through the formation of a national mechanism such as a forum for a secure national option or a sort of twinning between the two nascent states.

Addressing the Umma Party's regular meeting with the press and political parties, Al-Mahdi said that the referendum should be supervised by an international neutral body because any outcome of that exercise would be contested by some party or other. He also proposed a one-year post-referendum interim period.

On his part, Communist Party leader Ibrahim Al-Nugud expressed optimism southern Sudanese would vote for unity again if given the chance for another referendum two years later should they vote for separation in 2011. He said he would not feel any remorse should the south opt for separation because the north has done all it could to preserve unity.

Abyei Legislative Assembly wants borders demarcated

The Abyei Legislative Assembly is calling for the demarcation of the borders of the region pursuant to the PCA ruling, reports **Al-Ayyam**. The Assembly also deplored recent violent attacks in the region.

EES deducts staff salaries for referendum

The Governor of Eastern Equatoria has ordered the State Assembly to deduct money for six consecutive months from government officials , effective July 2010, to help finance civic education to the citizens and logistics support as part of its efforts for the referendum, reports **The Citizen** daily.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[Http://unmis.unmissions.org](http://unmis.unmissions.org)

United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200