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Media Monitoring Report

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

Highlights

Superpowers are using ICC to divide the continent – Al-Bashir

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/7/10 – President Al-Bashir, at meeting yesterday with visiting chairman of the Cote d’Ivoire’s ruling People’s Party A. Pascal, stressed the importance of cooperation among the African nations to resist attempts of hegemony and colonization by the superpowers. “The colonial powers are using judicial organs to undermine unity and to divide the African continent,” the President said.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Amro Musa yesterday told reporters that the latest ICC decision charging Sudanese President of genocide would further complicate matters, questioning the decision and its timing. He emphasized the importance of keeping Sudan united, hoping that the decision would not derail the Doha forum on Darfur.

The Sudanese Bar Association, in statement yesterday reiterated its categorical rejection of the ICC. “Whenever peace nears in Darfur, the ICC will step in to block the efforts,” the statement said.

“Al-Bashir is elected by the people in free and fair elections. Sudan will never hand over any of its nationals to the ICC,” Youths and Sports Minister, Haj Magid Siwar, told **Al-Sahafa**. “Where was the court when the flotilla of freedom destined for Gaza was attacked,” he wondered.

In a related development, **Akhir Lahza** reports AU-UN Joint Mediator Djibril Bassole has expressed hopes that the new ICC decision on President Al-Bashir would not adversely affect the Doha peace process for Darfur. “We do not need to put pressure on the government side,” he said in response to a question by *Al-Jazeera TV* on whether the latest development would help put pressures on the government side at the Doha talks. He pointed out that President Al-Bashir has a duty towards his people who have renewed their confidence in his rule through the ballot box.

Reuters 13/7/10 reported that the US government on Tuesday called for cooperation from Sudan's government.

"The United States strongly supports international efforts to bring those responsible for genocide and war crimes in Darfur to justice and believes that there cannot be a lasting peace in Darfur without accountability," said Mike Hammer, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council.

Though the U.S. statement did not name Bashir, it said, "We continue to call on the government of Sudan and all other parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court."

However, **Sudan Tribune website** 13/7/10 reported that the US special envoy to

Sudan Scott Gration appeared to strike a different tone than that of the White House and the State Department on the new ICC charges against President Al-Bashir.

"The decision by the ICC to accuse Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir of genocide will make my mission more difficult and challenging especially if we realize that resolving the crisis in Darfur and South, issues of oil and combating terrorism at a 100%, we need Bashir," Gration was quoted as saying by Arabic Language Washington-based *Radio Sawa*.

"Also the issues of citizenship and referendum, the North holds a lot of influence so this is really tough. How will I carry out my duties in this environment?" he posed the question.

In Paris, the ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo called on all states to isolate Bashir and urged non-ICC members such as U.S., China and Russia to "do something" after judges approved the genocide charges.

"We need all heads of state to say that if you commit genocide you cannot be part of the club... Because it's a genocide, even states who are not members of the ICC now have a legal obligation to do something," Ocampo said.

The new arrest warrant means the 1948 Genocide Convention can be invoked, Ocampo said, including in states such as the U.S., Russia and China, and even Sudan itself.

"They have to be clear. I mean China, Russia, the U.S. making clear statements," the ICC prosecutor told reporters.

Mission work will not be affected by the ICC decision – UN

Al-Ahdath 14/7/10- UNSG Ban Ki-moon has expressed a deep concern over the ICC's second arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir. Associate Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Farhan Haq said the work of the UN would not be affected by the second warrant of arrest, saying two UN missions operate in the Sudan. He said the SG "calls on the Sudanese Government to cooperate with the ICC", adding that the court is fully independent in its decisions.

Meanwhile, ***Al-Ahram*** reports that Director of the Presidency's Directorate of Political Affairs Ambassador Osman Nafie as saying that the US and the UN have no right to defend the ICC. He said the US should first join the ICC before asking Sudan to do so. He also said that UNSG Ki-moon has no right to defend the ICC because the court is not a UN institution.

Sudan's Lakes state establishes more police stations to curb insecurity

Sudan Tribune website 13/7/10 - Lakes state government plans to establish more police stations in different counties of the state in a bid to curb the rising insecurity in the area.

Inspector of Police in Rumbek Central County, Colonel Mangar Aping Buoi, has said that the state police headquarters had decided to open more police centers along the

roads and to cover eight counties of the state...

Sudan mulls selling its \$35 billion debt: report

Sudan Tribune website 13/7/10 - The governor of Sudan's Central Bank Sabir Mohamed Al-Hassan revealed that they have received offers from unspecified parties to buy the country's \$35 billion debt.

The independent *Al-Sahafa* quoted Al-Hassan as saying that consultations are underway between the central bank and finance ministry to review the offer which he said would be paid back in Sudanese pound.

The bank governor said that the pros and cons of such a step would be analyzed noting that other countries in a situation similar to Sudan sold their debt and paid it off in local currency.

An analysis of Sudan's debt as of December, 31 2009 showed that the country's original debt totaled \$15.4 billion, interest in arrears worth \$3.8 billion and late payment penalty on the interest valued at \$16.5 billion.

The total debt to non-members of the Paris Club was \$13.3 billion with \$11.2 billion to members of the Paris Club, \$4.5 billion to commercial banks and \$1.4 billion to international suppliers...

Darfur JEM claims victory in fresh fighting with Sudanese army

Sudan Tribune website 13/7/10 - The Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced Tuesday that it clashed with Sudanese government troops in North Darfur.

"Early in this morning, July 13th, 60 land cruiser vehicles 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".

UNAMID said in its daily briefing that it received unconfirmed reports of fighting between Government forces and JEM adding that verifications missions would be dispatched to confirm these reports....

Pre-referendum Watch

NCP rejects SPLM's request for UN involvement in Abyei referendum

Al-Sahafa 14/7/10 – The SPLM has formally complained to the head of the AEC Sir Derek Plumbly about the slow pace in the implementation of the PCA Award on Abyei and the obstacles to the formation of the Abyei referendum commission, warning of a renewed outbreak of war in the area.

The NCP, however, rejected the charges and reiterated its commitment to the full implementation of the CPA.

On Monday, the CPA partners held a meeting with the head of the AEC for discussion on the Abyei issue.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong told reporters that the SPLM formally informed the AEC about a worsened situation in the territory. He said the memo indicated that there were attempts to de-link Abyei referendum from that of the South, warning that such move may cause a renewed outbreak of war. He revealed that the SPLM proposed that the territory be placed under UN administration including the conduct of the referendum in the area should the two partners fail to agree on formation of the referendum commission. The NCP reiterated its commitment to the Abyei Protocol and the boundary demarcation but rejected the proposal of referral to the UN to conduct the referendum, saying differences could be resolved through dialogue.

Mr. Plumbly urged the two partners to expedite the formation of the referendum commission, saying any delay may cause disappointment among residents of the area.

Ajras Al-Hurriya reports former Abyei Chief Administrator Edward Lino as saying that the SPLM is seeking UN involvement in Abyei referendum because the NCP had rejected SPLM's nominations for the commission membership besides the fact that a short time is left. He said the UN is present on the ground so its supervision of the referendum is normal. However, the argument is rejected by Mr. Mahdi Babu Nimir, NCP member and Misseriya leading figure, who claimed that UN's involvement would once again internationalize the issue.

Sudan unprepared for 2011 referendum: report

Sudan Tribune website 13/7/10 - A global coalition of 24 humanitarian and human rights organizations have issued a report today saying that Sudan is "alarmingly unprepared" for the self-determination referendum scheduled for early January.

Most observers expect an overwhelming vote by Southerners for independence from the North driven by bitter memories of the civil war and feeling of marginalization by the Arab-Muslim dominated north.

"The clock is ticking fast towards what might be the most important date in modern Sudanese history – two referenda in Sudan that are likely to result in the breakup of Africa's largest state."

"A failed referendum could plunge Sudan back into war once more. The international community must now capitalize on the opportunity provided by the CPA and ensure that a free and fair referendum occurs," said Osman Hummada, Executive Director of the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, a member of the coalition.

"An agreement to share the revenues from oil was instrumental in achieving peace between north and south Sudan. 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," said Rosie Sharpe from Global Witness, a member of the coalition.

The report titled "Renewing the Pledge" called on the African and other world powers that witnessed the 2005 peace deal to push both sides to reach their agreements, hold a fair referendum on time and protect minorities in their territories.

The coalition also criticized the shift of focus on South Sudan referendum from other important issues such as democratic transformation, the unresolved conflict in Darfur, and other marginalized parts of Northern Sudan, including Eastern Sudan and the Three Areas.

Qatari Emir accuses Arab states of supporting South Sudan secession

Sudan Tribune website 13/7/10 - 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.

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.

Unity is still very much possible - SPLM

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/7/10 - The SPLM has downplayed the effect of secessionist voices within its ranks, saying unity is still possible. SPLM Deputy Chairman and Speaker of the GoSS Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga, reportedly said that the SPLM is generally tipped towards unity and pointed out that some three political parties known for their secessionist orientation did not manage to garner support in southern Sudan during the last elections. Wani said in an interview that SPLM figures advocating for secession are angry and want to push the federal government to implement development and service projects in southern Sudan.

Wani revealed that the SPLM is leading an awareness campaign on unity and expects a surprise vote for unity come the referendum. He noted however that Khartoum has to do more to make that happen.

In a related development, ***Al-Ahram*** reports that the federal cabinet at a meeting yesterday chaired by President Al-Bashir pledged to ensure the conduct of the

referendum in a fair, transparent and democratic atmosphere.