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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **“Remaining time insufficient to make unity attractive” – Kiir**

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit has said that the remaining time is not sufficient to make unity attractive and accused the NCP of dragging its feet on the CPA implementation, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports. Kiir, who made the remarks yesterday at a Church in Juba, said many CPA benchmarks remain pending. With regard to arms collection, Kiir said the next step would be to collect arms from holders of constitutional posts.

According to ***Akhbar Al-Youm***, Kiir, who visited a Church with Al-Turabi, said it was too late to make unity attractive but Al-Turabi urged Christian clerics to forget the past and work for unity of the country. “If the south secedes, the whole country will fragment,” he said.

## **SPLM rejects security bill**

The SPLM has rejected the national security and intelligence bill which was approved by the Cabinet last Thursday, ***Al-Sahafa*** reports. The SPLM said the bill ran counter to key CPA benchmarks and democratic transition process, accusing the NCP of rigging the document, citing insertion of new provisions in the text. Investment Minister George Boreng (SPLM) told a press conference yesterday that the text presented to the Cabinet was different from the one agreed upon by the two partners at the legal joint committee meeting. He said the Cabinet spokesperson’s statement that the bill was unanimously passed was incorrect.

With regard to the referendum, ***Sudan Tribune website*** 13/9/09 reported the NCP reiterated its stated position on the referendum law.

The Sudanese presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen told reporters in a press conference that his party is insisting that all Southerners should be allowed to take part in the vote irrespective of where they reside but the SPLM wants to limit the participation to Southerners in the South and Khartoum only.

He dismissed any attempt to involve any international mediator on the referendum similar to the manner in which the dispute over Abyei was resolved, warning against calls by figures in the South for unilateral independence.

Meanwhile, ***Xinhua*** 13/9/09 reports Ghazi criticized the decision announced by the US Administration to exclude certain areas from economic sanctions. “The decision is intended to divide the country,” he told the journalists.

“We are committed to the dialogue, but if the other party continues to make obstacles as what the U.S. Administration is doing, then they should be held responsible for the consequences” he said. “Since the first day of the dialogue, we told the Americans that we could live without them, and now we are living without them,” he added.

## **West Bahr El-Ghazal Governor urges UN to address famine**

“West Bahr El-Ghazal State, Wau in particular, is hard hit by famine. Our strategic stock of food is now empty and rain is also late this year which makes the situation worse,” says Gen. Mark Newboge Obeng, Governor of West Bahr El-Ghazal State, in a lengthy interview to ***Al-Sudani***, when asked to comment on UN reports about famine in his State. “The solution is that UN and

organizations should intervene to salvage the situation," he adds, when asked about the solution.

### **Abyei boundary demarcation team to visit the area today**

The Abyei Boundary Demarcation Committee is expected to arrive in the area today to begin demarcating the eastern boundaries, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. Abyei Administration SG Reng Deng Kuol told the paper that after the demarcation of the eastern border the committee would proceed to demarcate the western border, saying the atmosphere was now favourable to the work of the team.

### **AU Panel to brief US envoy Gration on findings**

**Al-Sahafa** reports US envoy Scott Gration will receive a briefing today from the chairman of the AU Panel on Darfur Thabo Mbeki who arrived in Khartoum yesterday. After briefing Gration, Mbeki would proceed to Libya for consultations on tensions between Sudan and Chad.

In a related development, **Sudan Tribune website** 13/9/09 reported Gration faced hostile audience today during a meeting with Darfur displaced people who accused him of complicity with Sudanese government.

Gration who arrived in North Darfur state on Saturday met today with representatives of four IDPs camps - Abu Shouk, Al-Salam, Zamzam, Koushab.

The IDPs who had announced the boycott of Gration's visit to the restive region said they changed their mind fearing reprisal by security services and also to use this opportunity to loudly voice their plight. The special envoy was accompanied by a large number of journalists.

They also said they wanted to tell him why they reject any dealings with him and call on Obama to replace him "not only because of his failure to improve the security and humanitarian situations, but also because he is acting against their interests in the areas of peace and justice,".

Speaking to Sudan Tribune from Abu Shouk, the IDP's representative from the four camps queried Gration about what he did since his previous visits to Darfur and their demands for security and protection.

"We asked him about demand for security and protection. We explained to him that we are still subjected to militias' attacks and detention by security services," said one of the representatives who requested not to be named.

"We also reminded him about our need to strengthen the mandate of the peacekeeping mission. What have you done for us Mr. Gration? We asked him?"

"We accused him of providing the cover to Khartoum and misleading the international community when he said that Sudanese government had negotiated with him the return of American nongovernmental aid groups to replace the 13 expelled groups".

"We have seen nothing till now and the situation is worsening every day. Gration is partly responsible for the deterioration we do believe. Because the international community thought he was telling the truth." another one said.

The IDPs said they tackled the issue of the peace process in Darfur with the US special envoy

who is involved in a unification process of some rebel factions parallel of another one conducted by Libya.

"We told him that we are against this so called unification because it encourages all the war traders and brokers to exploit our misery and benefit from it while we consider Abdel Wahid Al-Nur as our unique representative".

"This is why also we are opposed to the participation of 'Civil Society' in the talks because it is difficult to identify a civil society under the current repression and emergency law in Darfur" they further stressed.

During their hour long telephone interview the representatives of the four camps, also pointed out they spoke during their meeting with the American envoy about the Government claims about the voluntary return.

They said the camps populations are increasing not decreasing as the authorities claim. They said Zamzam and Dali camps received recently news IDPs after attacks on Korma near Jebel Marra.

They further spoke about the ongoing preparations to hold general elections and expressed their rejection to the electoral process before a lasting and just peace.

The IDPs asked Graton to apologize for Darfur and resign from his position because of his statements on "remnants of genocide" and his request before the Congress to ease economic sanctions on Sudan.

"We hope that the journalists who came with him will report what we said, but also we want Sudan Tribune to report our message to President Obama and the American people," they further said.

Graton yesterday addressed the opening session of the Third General Conference of the NCP in North Darfur where he praised the efforts done by the Government to improve the humanitarian situation, the official SUNA reported.

Hussein Abu Sharati, the spokesperson of Darfur IDPs said on Friday that Graton is not welcome in Darfur adding he ignored their demands for security and did nothing to ease the bad humanitarian situation particularly after the expulsion of 13 foreign aid groups last March.

On the other hand, the **website** also reported that JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein has said the Sudanese government was dispatching agents to Europe to track down the ICC witnesses.

The development comes in light of the establishment of the 'Group to Correct the Course of Darfur Crisis (NGCCDC)' whose founders include individuals claiming to be former translators and witnesses who worked with the ICC and other organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

NGCCDC, at a press conference in the Ethiopian capital, said that they were lured by international organizations to exaggerate the numbers of victims and killings that occurred in the region.

JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein accused the NISS of standing behind the group.

"This is a conspiracy to undermine the mandate of the ICC and prosecutions of Darfur war crimes suspects," Hussein told Sudan Tribune.

"They were offered \$50,000 each and a house in Khartoum. Once they get there [Khartoum] they will not be allowed to leave to prevent them from testifying if they were to ever change their minds," he added.

Hussein named a man Ga'afar Abdel-Hakam, the former governor of West Darfur, of standing behind the effort adding that he is nicknamed "the butcher" and Sharif Siyam Adam one of the alleged witnesses.

"The Sudanese government was able to gather all these journalists to fly to Addis Ababa at such a short notice to attend their press conference. This is all a play created out of their [Khartoum] desperation," he added.

Hussein called on the ICC to "strengthen its witness protection program" stressing that the Sudanese government is working hard to identify any potential witnesses.

The development come as the Darfur panel headed by the former South African president Thabo Mbeki prepares to submit its recommendations to the African Union on ways to achieve justice in Darfur.

Sudanese are hopeful and optimistic that the Panel will advise against ICC prosecutions in the war ravaged region of Darfur.

### **Jurists criticizes negative coverage of journalist Lubna Hussein trial**

**Al-Intibaha** reports that legal sources have criticized what they described as "negative coverage" of journalist Lubna Hussein, charged of indecency. The sources said the case received far too more coverage than it actually deserves, adding the court's decision was based on testimonies by key witnesses who found the girls in a ball room in Khartoum.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 13/9/09 reported that the written decision by a Sudanese judge charging a female journalist with indecent clothing demonstrates the dilemma of similar girls who fear that their cases would come to the public.

Below is the text of the proceedings on the basis of which Judge Mudathir Al-Rasheed Sid Ahmed convicted Hussein of indecency.

"Defendant was wearing tight pants and blouse with short and transparent sleeves with openings on the sides and composting pants and her head was exposed because she was not wearing scarves".

Witness evidence as it came first page indictment (6) of the record says:

"Defendant was wearing pants and a blouse and the pants were tight and flashy and shows from underneath it the thighs and the outline and the form of the underwear and the color of her panties that can clearly be seen which is beige in color and short shirt with sleeves up to her elbow and it is transparent and light reflecting everything inside it within such as the shape and form of the bra and that the start of her chest is showing because the blouse opening and it also has two holes on the side lengthwise from top to bottom, and there is a gap between the confluence of the shirt so that they appear able to view the navel and the underwear of the

accused”.

The witness recounted the details of that second indictment in his words on page (12) of the record:

“The accused of wearing a green blouse and it was short and transparent, showing her navel and also showing her bra and the sleeves were reaching only barely up to her elbow and her trousers were tight and her underwear was showing and her hair was exposed”.

Based on this evidence, we decide that the defendant was wearing a provocative outfit through which it shows all parts of the body of the woman’s charms, and shows the underwear and revealing her hair as she sat inside a nightclub full of dancing and singing with mingling between women and men, and this cafe is a public place as defined in the comment of Dr. Mohamed Awad Ali Mohyideen on this code that the public space is attended by people without discrimination and examples like public roads and public squares, shops and places of public entertainment.

### **Donors to hold meeting in Khartoum on de-mining operations**

Donors plan to hold a meeting in Khartoum on 15th September to support de-mining operations in Sudan, **SMC** reports. The meeting will be held under the patronage of the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Abdel Bagi Al Gailani.

The Manager of National De-mining Center, Khalid Abdeen Al Shami told said that participants would focus on achievements made by the Government and UN on de-mining operations.

He expressed keenness to declare the country free from landmines by 2014. Al-Shami praised national and foreign organizations for their role, assistance and advices in this area, adding that de-mining center prepared a paper on the actual needs for de-mining program for presentation to the donors meeting.

### **Idul Fitr holiday Sunday through Tuesday**

**Local dailies** report the Cabinet General Secretariat announced that Idul Fitr holiday will commence on Sunday 20 September until Tuesday 22 September.