

20 October 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Government reject US's description of Darfur as "genocide" (**Dailies/websites**)
- SPLM walks out of Assembly, NCP criticizes the step (**Al-Sahafa**)
- 250 Lou Nuer desert SPLA (**Al-Wifaq**)
- GoSS calls on donors to address food gap (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Abyei Administration foils bid to embezzle \$ 59,000 (**Ray Al-Shaab**)
- President Al-Bashir chairs National Security Committee meeting (**SMC**)
- Workshop on securing NGO compounds in Darfur (**Al-Ayyam**)
- UNAMID warns of military build-up in Darfur (**ST**)
- Sudan hails RDF's professionalism (**The New Times**)

Links

- Face of a Nation on the Brink (**Allafrica.com**)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910191745.html>
- The fierce urgency of implementation: The new U.S. Policy (**Allafrica.com**)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910191752.html>
- Why aid for Darfur's rape survivors has all but disappeared (**ST reprint**)
<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32836>

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 reject US's description of Darfur as "genocide"

Sudan Government yesterday announced it would study the US strategy toward Sudan but it rejected the "stick and carrot" policy and the description of events in Darfur as "genocide", **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports.

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din at a press conference yesterday deplored the use of "genocide". "We do not want to jump to conclusions, but in general the strategy, comparatively speaking, contains some positive points. We will refer it to the competent organs to review before we take formal position" he said.

Al-Sahafa reports Sudan Government cautiously welcomed the US new strategy on Sudan, adding Ghazi described the policy as containing positive points since it seeks to engage Khartoum not to isolate it. Ghazi also said strategy was free of threat for military intervention which is a positive development.

Sudan Tribune website 19/10/09 reported that the Sudanese Government and several Darfur rebel groups cautiously welcomed the release of the new US policy on Sudan.

US officials said that the new policy aims to achieve three main objectives including a halt to human right abuses in Darfur, North-South peace deal and cooperation on counterterrorism.

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din reiterated his country's rejection of "policy of pressure" from any party.

The SPLM also lauded the US announcement today. "The policy is in line with the SPLM position," Anne Itto, deputy secretary-general of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, told **Bloomberg**.

Among other things the policy urges the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) to "abide by its responsibilities under the terms of the CPA, and prioritize conflict mitigation and resolution, capacity-building, transparency and accountability, and service delivery".

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur hailed the affirmation of genocide labeling of the Darfur conflict." What she [Hillary Clinton] called for is in line with our [SLM] position on conflict suspension and providing security to civilians" AL-Nur told **Sudan Tribune**.

Ahmed Hussein from Darfur Justice and Equality Movement said the group is still reviewing the new policy before issuing a formal opinion.

Hussein said that the outline of the policy "show a good direction to resolve the conflict". He urged Washington to engage all parties and not just Khartoum adding that the latter is known "for buying time" accusing it of lacking the will to achieve peace.

"The US must press Khartoum to respond positively to genuine international will, looking to bring peace" he said.

The newly formed umbrella group of Sudan's Liberation Revolutionary Forces (SLRF) which includes six rebel factions echoed their peers' reaction and cautioned against lifting sanction on Sudan.

"Compared to previous policies there are positive points... we don't see the extreme ideas and suggestions which we used to see in the past," Ghazi Salaheddin, advisor to President Omar al-Bashir, told reporters, according to **AFP**. "I will say it is a strategy of engagement, not a strategy of isolation," he added.

According to **AFP** 19/10/09, President Barack Obama warned Monday of more US pressure on Sudan if its government did not respond to a new US policy of offering incentives to stop "genocide" and "abuses" in Darfur.

"Our conscience and our interests in peace and security call upon the United States and the international community to act with a sense of urgency and purpose," Obama said in a statement.

"First, we must seek a definitive end to conflict, gross human rights abuses and genocide in Darfur," Obama said, in the statement issued as the State Department unveiled a new US-Sudan strategy.

"If the Government of Sudan acts to improve the situation on the ground and to advance peace, there will be incentives, if it does not, then there will be increased pressure imposed by the United States and the international community.

"As the United States and our international partners meet our responsibility to act, the Government of Sudan must meet its responsibilities to take concrete steps in a new direction."

Reuters 19/10/09 reported U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday unveiled a new strategy toward Sudan, offering incentives if the Khartoum Government worked toward peace, but said it faced tougher steps if it failed to act, warning that Sudan was "poised to fall further into chaos if swift action is not taken,". He also said he would renew sanctions on Sudan this week.

"If the Government of Sudan acts to improve the situation on the ground and to advance peace, there will be incentives; if it does not, then there will be increased pressure imposed by the United States and the international community," Obama said in a statement.

SPLM walks out of Assembly, NCP criticizes the step

Al-Sahafa reports that in a new wave of escalation of differences between the two partners, the SPLM yesterday walked out of the National Assembly session and decided to boycott the Parliament for a week to protest non-endorsement of key bills. The NCP criticized the SPLM's move, considering it a bad parliamentary practice and a departure from the Parliament's tradition. The NCP also said the Parliament sessions would continue.

Sudan Tribune website 19/10/09 reported that the SPLM, in a bid to put pressure on its peace partner to adopt outstanding bills, today withdrew from the federal parliament for a week.

The head of the SPLM parliamentary bloc at the National Assembly, Yasir Arman, told reporters surrounded by the members of his group in parliament that they want to see a parliamentary schedule for the remaining laws.

Arman further said the current draft of security law enables the security apparatus to arrest,

search and detain, adding all these are against the constitution.

He further added that if the National Congress Party does not show progress on the disputed issues, the SPLM would boycott the parliamentary session which will continue until November 30.

The NCP asserts that Sudan National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) should have more powers, such as arrest and confiscation, than simply gathering information; something the SPLM says is contrary to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Mohamed Atta the new head of the service in a public relations meeting with the press yesterday said the body need such power to face the different threats the country is facing.

Atem Garang, the Deputy National Assembly Speaker on SPLM ticket, today told reporters in Khartoum that a number of political parties led by SPLM, walked out of the national assembly sittings to put more pressure on the NCP to reach consensus on pending key issues in the deal.

250 Lou Nuer desert SPLA

Al-Wifaq reports an SPLA official who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed that about 250 soldiers (Lou Nuer) fled the SPLA ranks to Jonglei state along with their arms. A source said the incident occurred after the SPLA stepped up operations to disarm Lou Nuer by force which the SPLA soldiers (Lou Nuer) view as attempt to annihilate their tribe.

GoSS calls on donors to address food gap

Al-Wifaq reports GoSS has called on the donors to find an urgent solution to the food gap in the South. GoSS informed source told the **SMC** that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs prepared a report for donors in which it confirmed the existence of a food gap in the South which entails urgent humanitarian intervention.

Abyei Administration foils bid to embezzle \$59,000

Ray Al-Shaab reports Abyei Administration spokesperson Chol Angwai as saying that an attempt by officials to embezzle \$ 59,000 was frustrated. He said the DG of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the DG of the Ministry of Finance in the Abyei Area signed contracts with a company to build roads without authorization.

President Al-Bashir chairs National Security Committee meeting

SMC 19/10/09 - President Al-Bashir today presided over the first meeting of the National Security Coordination Committee. Al-Bashir said that the Advisory Committee is a coordinator not a replacement of the National Security Services.

National Security Advisor, Salah Abdallah Gosh, said that the meeting marked the launch of the Advisory committee. He pointed out that the Advisory Committee would focus on coordinating with Government units on assessment and studies aimed at formulating strategies necessary to preserve national security.

Workshop on securing NGO compounds in Darfur

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs announced that it would organize a workshop in collaboration with the international NGOs operating in Darfur to discuss how to secure NGO compounds in Darfur, **Al-Ayyam** reports. The Humanitarian State Minister Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani speaking at press conference yesterday after the release of the two GOAL aid workers said protecting NGO compounds in Darfur was the present challenge for the Ministry.

UNAMID warns of military build-up in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 19/10/09 – UNAMID today warned of military buildup in the restive region of Darfur, expressing fears that this may be a sign of impending attack.

"UNAMID personnel in the field have recently observed a sizable and unusual increase in military activities by the Government of Sudan (GoS) and Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid Faction (SLA/AW) forces, notably in the areas of Sortony and Kabkabiya in North Darfur," said a statement released today.

In a statement released Monday the peacekeeping mission urged the two parties to refrain from resorting to violence, stressing that dialogue and negotiations remain the only way for a peaceful resolution of the six-year conflict.

"UNAMID wishes to emphasize that armed clashes invariably result in casualties and fatalities among combatants and in dire consequences for the civilian population" the mission added.

Sudan hails RDF's professionalism

The **New Times** 20/10/09 (Kigali) — Senior Sudanese military officials have praised the Rwandan army in Sudan for being a good professional force. The revelation was made to the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen James Kabarebe, who is currently on an official visit to Sudan.

According to RDF spokesperson, Maj. Jill Rutaremara, Kabarebe was yesterday received by top Sudanese military brass, including the Chief of the Joint Staff (CJS) of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), 1st Lt. Gen. Muhamed Abdulkader Nasserdin, at the SAF Headquarters in Khartoum. Kabarebe also met the Sudanese Minister of Defence, Lt. Gen. Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein.

"The Sudanese CJS and Minister of Defence thanked the Rwandan Government for their contribution in achieving peace in Sudan. They praised the RDF and described it as a well trained, well led, disciplined and professional force," said Rutaremara.

Maj. Rutaremara also told The New Times that while at the SAF Headquarters in Khartoum, Kabarebe was given a general presentation on the Sudanese army. "The discussions between the CDS and the two leaders were centred on enhancing and formalizing bilateral military cooperation between the two armies."