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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Bashir to visit Chad despite arrest warrant-sources

Reuters (KHARTOUM) 20/7/10 - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir will travel to Chad on Wednesday, presidential sources said, his first visit to a member state of the court demanding his arrest for war crimes and genocide.

"He will go to Chad tomorrow," a presidential source told *Reuters* on Tuesday. "He will attend the summit of the Sahel-Saharan states," the source added. Another source in the presidency said the visit would last three days.

A Chadian rebel and a Sudanese official told *Reuters* that Khartoum had expelled Mahamat Nouri and Timan Erdimi, two of the most prominent Chadian insurgent leaders living in Sudan, a move seen as a concession before the trip.

Chad had demanded that Sudan remove 15 Chadian rebels, including Nour and Erdimi. The senior Sudanese official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said all 15 had left the country.

Bashir is unlikely to travel without assurances from Chadian President Idriss Deby that he will not be handed over, but some people in Sudan still see the trip as risky due to the recent tumultuous relations between the neighbours. The senior Sudanese official said Khartoum believed Bashir would be safe.

"We feel confident - we believe Deby is genuine and that he's respected the agreement with the government of Sudan so far and he's realised that his interests lie with a good and friendly relationship with Sudan," the official said.

Sudan Tribune website 20/7/10 reported the Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir prepares to make a landmark visit to Chad starting Wednesday making it the first visit to his Eastern neighbour after years of proxy wars between the two sides.

On Saturday a diplomatic source informed *Sudan Tribune* of the proposed visit by Bashir.

"Within the framework of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD) summit President Omar al-Bashir is expected here tomorrow [Wednesday] to join the summit which will take place on Thursday," an official in the president's office in N'djamena told AFP.

Deby met last week with the ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo in Paris though it is not clear if the planned visit by Bashir to N'djamena was discussed.

An official at Human Rights Watch (HRW) said that if Bashir does make the visit then it will risk "the shameful distinction of being the first ICC member state to harbour a

suspected war criminal from the court”.” Chad should not flout its obligations to arrest al-Bashir if he enters Chad. Moreover, a political deal between Chad and Sudan is no justification for shielding alleged war criminals. Instead of protecting a fugitive from justice," said Elise Keppler, international justice senior counsel at Human Rights Watch (HRW) in remarks to Sudan Tribune.

“Chad should not flout its obligations to arrest al-Bashir if he enters Chad.”

President Al-Bashir orders collection of unlicensed arms

Al-Rai Al-Aam 21/7/10 – President Al-Bashir has directed the Ministry of Interior to collect all unlicensed arms from militias and groups in Khartoum and other states, saying arms should only be in the hands of the organized forces. “We want a Sudan free of arms, militias and guards,” the President said at a ceremony held to honour police leadership. He pointed out that internal security is the responsibility of police, calling on the armed forces to secure the borders and leave the job of internal security to the police.

British envoy acknowledges improvement of situation in Darfur

SUNA 20/7/10 - The British Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan has acknowledged the improvement of situation in Darfur as well as in the relations between the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

The Envoy, Michael O'Neil, said in a statement to *SUNA* following his meeting with the Presidential Advisor and official of Darfur file Dr. Ghazi Salahuddin affirmed the support of his country to holding a fair referendum on scheduled, hoping that the result of the referendum should not lead to eruption of war between the north and South Sudan.

Floods displace more than 10,000 in Jonglei State

The Commissioner of Akobo County in Jonglei State said over 10,000 people have been displaced by flash floods following heavy rain in the area last week.

Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, the Commissioner called on humanitarian organizations and UN agencies to extend urgent humanitarian assistance to the area and provide air transportation since the county is inaccessible by road.

He added that the only primary school in the county has been damaged by the floods. Meanwhile, different areas of North Darfur State experienced heavy rains on Sunday, recording the highest rainfall in decades, flooding the area and causing huge losses to the residents. Over one thousand two hundred homes have been downed by the floods.

GoSS President issues decree on appointment of 11 advisors

SUNA 20/7/10 - The First Vice – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a decree appointing 11 presidential advisors.

The advisors are Lual Deng Wool as Advisor for Political Affairs, John Kong Nyon as Advisor for Security Affairs, Rebeka Nyan Deng De Mabior as the Advisor for Gender and Human Rights, Tilar Reng Mawin as the Advisor for Legal Affairs, General Alfred Ladu Gor as Advisor for Diplomatic Relations, Nor Deng as Advisor for Decentralized

Government and Government Relations, Gen. Salva Matok Genev as the Military Affairs Advisor, Kor Nelios Nefo as the Advisor for Government Control and Fairness, Maj. Gen. Daniel Kodi as the Advisor for Southern Kordofan Affairs, Col. Saddiq Al-Mansi as Advisor of the Blue Nile Affairs and Sultan Kong Kong Paul Riyam as the Advisor for Social Peace.

According to Miraya FM, Kiir has appointed Pagan Amum as the chief negotiator and Nhial Deng Nhial as deputy chief Negotiator.

Southern Sudan land commission seeks financial assistance to clean up land ownership issues

Sudan Tribune website 21/7/10 - The South Sudan Lands Commission is seeking financial assistance to undertake a thorough land use and ownership verification exercise in all ten states of southern Sudan.

Robert Ladu Luki, chairperson of the land commission, in an official appeal statement to the press last Thursday, said irregularities in land use and ownership in Juba are a reflection of the situation in other southern state capitals.

The commission's intention is to use the funds to report on the seriousness of the problem and set out methods and practices the government could use to address the issue Luki explained.

The press statement by the South Sudan Lands Commission received by the Sudan Tribune on Sunday explained that financial assistance was needed by the commission for a clean up exercise in order to set records straight and ensure that all implicated in land misuse scams would be prosecuted.

Deliberate change of land use, such as building bars or a department store on an open space or reserved areas interferes with urban planning efforts, Luki said.

"This is why Land commission has been entrusted with the duty to take charge of public property. We are given powers to maintain law and order without prejudice, he declared. No one will be bullied in the course of implementing the clean up exercise because justice will take its course," he clarified.

According to Luki clerics, party leaders and other dignitaries should, "avoid using your influence to force land officers bypass regulations because at the end of the day the officers will be in trouble and the land acquired illegally will be confiscated."

"Those who believe that the exercise will be short-lived are mistaken. It is a long term plan to instill a sense of discipline and will be maintained to make sure that unnecessary land problems are avoided," he stressed.

Minnawi in Juba on undeclared visit

Ajras Al-Hurriya 21/7/10 - SLM chairman Minni Minnawi on Monday arrived in Juba on an undeclared visit. SLM spokesperson Zulnoon Suleiman declined to elaborate but said the visit aimed to discuss issues of mutual concern including the southern Sudan referendum on self-determination.

However, while some sources say Minnawi is invited by the SPLM for consultations, others say he traveled to Juba to avoid direct meetings with NCP leaders after JEM and SLM-AW welcome Kiir's efforts.

Arms collection in South Darfur begins on Saturday

Al-Ayyam 21/7/10 – South Darfur governor Abdul Hameed Musa Kasha announced that a campaign for collection of arms in South Darfur state would kickoff on Saturday, calling on civilians to register the weapons in their possession with the native administrators. He said the campaign is intended to curb the spread of arms.

AFP journalist charged for photographing military installations

Al-Rai Al-Aam 21/07/10 – A legal counsel for an AFP journalist charged with photographing military installations has pleaded not guilty to the charges. The lawyer pointed out that the evidence to support those charges (37 seconds of video footage found on the defendant's mobile phone) only shows a signpost. He requested to be allowed to bring in some witnesses so the defence would plead its case. The Central Khartoum Court would give its verdict on the case of the State versus AFP journalist Mohamed Al-Sheikh Al-Badawi on 28 July 2010.

Sudan and Ethiopia to start joint border patrols

Akhir Lahza 21/7/10 - Sudan and Ethiopia will start deploying joint border patrols along their common borders around Gondar (Ethiopia) and Bassonda (Sudan). The Commissioner for Bassonda, Osman Adam Ibrahim, told the newspaper following his return from Gondar that the two sides agreed to such measures in order to preserve security along the border strip that has been a hotspot of conflict between farmers from both sides of the border.

Pre-referendum Watch

NCP and SPLM sign framework agreement on post-referendum arrangement

Local dailies 21/7/10 – The two CPA partners yesterday signed a framework agreement in Juba outlining the way forward for the negotiations of the committees on post-referendum arrangement. The partners also agreed to conduct a peaceful referendum and to involve opposition parties in their negotiations.

The NCP and the SPLM will resume their negotiations on post-referendum arrangement on Tuesday in Khartoum through four committees and their talk will continue for one week.

In the framework agreement, the two partners committed themselves to conduct the referendum on schedule and to respect the choice of the southern Sudanese.

"I can say that now we are ready to engage in detailed negotiations in a positive spirit," SPLM SG Pagan Amum told reporters.

State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mutrif Siddiq said the agreement commits the

two partners to discuss issues in transparency and good will. He said the framework agreement would guide the four committees on their negotiations, adding his party agreed to the participation of the political parties in the post-referendum arrangement issues.

According to **AFP** 20/07/10, top NCP and SPLM leaders signed a document of "guiding principles" for the negotiations, to ensure they are "informed by a shared belief in a prosperous future of all Sudanese people, rather than burdened by a difficult past."

"The parties recommit themselves to the holding of the referendum on self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan on the 9 January 2011, and to respect the choice of the people," the document read, signed in the southern capital Juba.

Several analysts have warned of the risk of war if the negotiations stumble, with concern growing that sticking points can be resolved in time.

However, Pagan Amum, who signed the document on behalf of the SPLM, said it would ensure negotiations worked towards creating a "permanent peace, and establish good relations between the south and the north."

One of the NCP representatives, Muttrif Siddiq, said the deal would "make the outcome of the referendum -- regardless of the vote -- a peaceful one."

The document was witnessed by former South African president Thabo Mbeki, who is mediating the discussions as part of an African Union panel.

"This essentially marks the beginning of post-referendum negotiations," said Mbeki, following the signing.

"It indicates the commitment by all the negotiators to attend to all of these matters with necessary seriousness and the urgency that is required."

Talks will resume on July 27, with separate groups focusing on four specific areas including economic and resource management, citizenship, security and international treaties, Mbeki said.

Presidency invites political parties to a consultative meeting on referendum

Al-Rai Al-Aam 21/7/10 – The Presidency has invited the Sudanese political forces to take part in a consultation meeting scheduled for Saturday for debate on the upcoming referendum.

Meanwhile, National Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi told reporters following a meeting with President Al-Bashir yesterday that his party would participate in the consultative meeting on Saturday to ensure the conduct of a fair referendum in order to avoid a renewed war.

Southern Sudan parliament briefed on 2011 Taskforce

Sudan Tribune website 21/7/10 - The regional parliament in the semi-autonomous

Southern Sudan has acquainted itself with the work of the Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce during a presentation on Tuesday.

The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Daniel Awet Akot, on Monday raised an urgent motion requesting the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, to present to the August House a comprehensive statement detailing the work of the referendum Taskforce with the aim to enlighten the parliamentarians about the nature of the Taskforce.

On Tuesday, the Vice President presented to the Assembly the report on the composition of the Taskforce, its mandate as well as the status of its work progress.

Machar enlightened the members of parliament on the work of the various sub-committees under the Taskforce. These included sub-committee number one which deals with the conduct of the referendum itself. It is chaired by the minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok. Its northern-based branch is chaired by Wek Mamer, a state minister in the Government of National Unity, to deal with the Southern Sudanese in the North.

Sub-committee number two on post-referendum issues is chaired by the SPLM Secretary General and minister of Peace and CPA Implementation, Pagan Amum Okiech, while the third sub-committee deals with post-2011 governance in Southern Sudan and is chaired by the minister of Cabinet Affairs, Kosti Manibe.

Machar who stressed the importance of transparency in the process further explained that the sub-committee number one which deals with the most critical issue, the conduct of the referendum in the next five months, will be responsible for security, civic education and voter mobilization in Southern Sudan, among others.

On the other hand, the post-referendum arrangement sub-committee will try to tackle issues like oil, its production, transport and marketing, currency, international treaties, usage of Nile waters, assets and debts, status of southerners in the Sudan Armed Forces and vice versa, among others. Given the nature of the post-referendum issues which were not addressed in the 2005 peace deal, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), a new mediator in the person of the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki and two of his colleagues from the AU Panel, will mediate between the SPLM and the NCP in order to try to reach an agreement on such issues...

Pre-referendum security detractors warned - Interior Minister

Sudan Tribune website 20/7/10 - With Sudan's long-awaited referendum bound to become a reality, elements with intentions to disrupt south Sudan's security will face the full wrath of existing laws, the Internal Affairs Minister, Maj. Gen. Gier Chuang Aluong has said.

Briefing journalists at the government-initiated weekly media forum, Maj. Gen Gier, gave a general overview of South Sudan's security situation, describing it as "normal".

"As you are all aware, we had some elements of insurgency in Jonglei and parts of

Upper Nile states. However the SPLA [Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army] forces effectively intervened and now the situation is back to normal,” the Interior Minister said.

Reacting to a query about Khartoum’s alleged support for southern-based militias; Maj. Gen. Gier said a post-referendum committee, consisting of senior officials from both the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the southern governments were holding discussions into such issues.

Asked to comment on the army’s involvement in elections and what actions were being taken on those implicated, the Internal Affairs Minister blamed the whole saga on certain individuals, as opposed to army units.

“We noted with concerns some of the documented cases of intimidations and harassments. After investigating, we discovered that some individuals were directly involved and the matter is being handled by their various battalions,” he said.

South Sudan minister urges media for more coverage on referendum

Sudan Tribune website 20/7/10 - The minister of Information and Broadcasting in the Government of Southern Sudan on Tuesday urged media practitioners to help in educating the population in the region about the referendum, as the January 2011 polling gets closer.

Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin in a weekly press briefing said media have great role to play in the conduct of the referendum and other regional events. “You have a big role to make sure that people are well informed before the referendum takes place,” he said.

flanked by key members of the regional government including the minister of Internal Affairs, General Gier Chuang Aluong, who also briefed the press on activities of his ministry, Dr. Marial reportedly told journalists that based on the media’s role, voters will be able to make up their mind based on informed decision to independently vote for either united Sudan or separation.

The weekly press briefing followed presentations about the referendum with emphasis on its successful conduct and different structures of the committee by the regional parliament chaired by Deputy Speaker, Daniel Awet, on Monday...

“History will never forgive us if the South separates” – Ghandour

Al-Rai Al-Aam 21/7/10 – Head of the Sudanese Workers Trade Unions Federation and NCP leading figure Ibrahim Ghandour said the Union is determined to launch a campaign on 5 August to support unity. “Sudan will never surrender and will remain united,” he said. “The history will never forgive us if Sudan is partitioned,” he told the Union’s Central Committee members.

Separation option is better than return to war – Presidential Adviser

Al-Sahafa 21/7/10 – Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail, addressing a festival on unity and peace organized by the Cairo-based NCP office on Monday revealed that President Al-Bashir would announce during the few coming days the formation of a national committee comprising all political and partisan forces in the South and the

North including the opposition parties as well as the social and popular groups to work for making unity attractive.

Ismail has reiterated respect to the choice of the southerners on referendum. “If separation is their choice we will respect it because war means devastation,” he said. “Respect to the choice of the southerners, even if it is separation, is far better than return to war,”

Japan announces \$ 8 m for referendum

Al-Wifaq 21/7/10 – The Japanese Government has announced that it would support Sudan’s referendum with \$8 millions and will also dispatch observers to monitor the process. This was revealed following a meeting between the visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Ms. Chinami Nishimura and the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hassan.