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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Cyprus investigating arms shipment destined for Sudan

**Al-Sahafa** 23/6/10 – Sudan government's source declined to comment on weapons shipment seized in Cyprus pending investigation, reportedly destined for Sudan. "The government has no information about the shipment," the source said.

Sudanese army spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled said, "There is no indication that the cargo was destined for Sudan".

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 22/6/10, the Cyprus government disclosed that it is investigating a Barbuda flagged cargo vessel that stopped for refueling on June 11 at its port of Limassol on suspicion that it is carrying weapons heading to Sudan which could potentially be a violation to UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

The daily Phileleftheros, which broke the story, said the vessel was transporting tanks and large quantities of explosives, and was blocked after a tip-off from the United States. A spokesman at the U.S. embassy in Nicosia said Washington was not involved.

Phileleftheros said that the authorities in Cyprus are waiting for a convincing explanation from the ship's captain on the nature and destination of the cargo. The port police customs officers searched the ship and confirmed the presence of weapons on board.

However, the captain furnished documents showing that the tanks were destined for Singapore while the explosives were headed to Algeria.

The Cypriot Commerce Minister Antonis Paschalidis confirmed that the cargo ship had anchored outside the port of Limassol carrying banned military hardware and equipment.

"There is material [on board] which is considered prohibited from leaving Cyprus right now," Paschalides said.

Asked about the cargo, Paschalides said, "I cannot specify right now what material it is, whether it is tanks, not tanks or other things, but there is definitely military material which comes under export control."

Paschalidis said he expects a report later on Tuesday by the Police.

He further said that the ship had passed through four other ports before they arrive in Cyprus including Norway, Singapore, Germany and Spain.

The police Spokesman, Michael Katsounotos said in a statement that according to documents provided by the captain of the ship its destination appeared to be Sudan and Singapore.

An official from Sudan's foreign ministry on Tuesday told Reuters he had no information on the vessel in Cyprus.

A security source said authorities were investigating whether the cargo contravened a U.N. arms embargo on all armed groups operating in Sudan's Darfur region, the site of a seven-year

conflict pitting government troops and allied militias against rebel fighters.

### **Signs of a crisis between SPLM and UN**

**Al-Intibaha** 23/6/10 – Signs of a major political and diplomatic crisis between the SPLM and the UN are looming in the backdrop of detention and torture of a UN observer by an SPLA commander in Yei County in Central Equatoria. The UN observer was detained and subjected to torture for two days, an incident that angered the UN and provoked its denouncement.

Reliable sources reported the observer as saying after his release that SPLA commander in Yei County ordered his detention and torture for two days during which he was denied even his minimum human rights. The source said the observer reported the incident to the Mission and he was promised that the matter would be taken up with competent authorities.

### **Fresh fighting between JEM rebels and Sudanese army in Darfur**

**Local dailies** confirmed a fierce fighting between the JEM and the Sudanese armed forces in Uzman area in Darfur. SAF claimed 43 killed and 90 wounded on the part of JEM while it lost 7 soldiers and 11 wounded.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 22/6/10, the JEM and the Sudanese army said they clashed in Uzman Dooma, 120 km southeast of El Fasher the capital of North Darfur state on Monday. The two parties alleged they inflicted heavy losses on each other.

We destroyed 35 vehicles and one tank; said JEM military spokesperson Ali Wafi, claiming the government soldiers fled the battle in disarray. "The Army collapsed and it does not desire to fight," he said.

The Sudanese army said it had attacked JEM rebels accusing them of entering Uzman and causing a lot of chaos and instability in the area.

Wafi pledged to publish very soon the list of Sudanese soldiers killed during the fight.

On the other hand, Sudanese army spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled claimed they killed 43 rebels and lost seven soldiers. He also said they destroyed 28 vehicles and seized five vehicles in good condition.

JEM military spokesperson said they also clashed with the Sudanese army today near Um Katkout, in South Darfur. He said they seized weapons and ammunition from the army. "We will publish the details very soon, he said.

In another development, Sudanese government and rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) have agreed on a timetable for the start of the negotiations of the different committees, the mediation said on Tuesday.

The agreement reached in a meeting held today in Doha, the official venue of the peace talks, attended by Amin Hassan Omer, head of government delegation, and the LJM delegation chaired by Eltigani Seisi Mohamed Ateem.

### **Prosecutor probes Swedish link in Sudan crimes**

**Reuters** 21/6/10 - Sweden's public prosecutor opened a criminal investigation on Monday into allegations that Swedes working for a consortium of oil companies during the Sudanese civil war may have been complicit in human rights abuses.

The investigation follows a report published earlier this month by a group of agencies which accused the consortium - led by Swedish exploration firm Lundin Oil - of possible complicity in atrocities committed in Sudan between 1997 and 2003.

It has prompted two opposition parties to urge Carl Bildt, currently Sweden's Foreign Minister, to clarify his role on the board of Lundin Oil during that period, with one questioning his ability to represent Sweden while under investigation.

"The purpose of the inquiry is to investigate whether there are individuals with ties to Sweden who are suspected of involvement in crime," prosecutor Magnus Evling said in a statement posted on the court's web site.

Bildt, who left Lundin Oil in 2006 when he became foreign minister, was not immediately available to comment on the probe.

The probe will follow up on allegations made by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS) in its June 8 report exploring the consortium's activities titled "Unpaid Debt", it said.

The consortium - made up of Lundin Oil, Malaysian firm Petronas (PNAS.KL), Austrian energy group OMV (OMV.VI) and a Sudanese state-owned firm - signed a deal in 1997 with Sudan's government to exploit oil in disputed areas, ECOS wrote.

The start of exploration set off a vicious war as the government sought to take control of oil fields in the area, leading to thousands of deaths and the forced displacement of local populations, ECOS wrote in its report.

Lundin Oil sold part of its assets, including its management and technical team, to Canada's Talisman Energy (TLM.TO) in 2001 in a partial takeover while the rest of the company continued to operate under the new name Lundin Petroleum (LUPE.ST).

Ian Lundin, chairman of Lundin Petroleum, dismissed the allegations in an open letter, writing that Lundin Petroleum "has, at all times, been concerned with the interests and respected the rights of the people of Sudan". (Reporting by Nicholas Vinocur; Editing by Giles Elgood)

### **INGOs obligated to partnership with national NGOs in Darfur**

**Al-Sudani** 23/6/10 – The South Darfur state has obligated humanitarian INGOs operating in Darfur to re-energize their partnership with the national NGOs in the relief field. South Darfur HAC Commissioner Jamal Yusuf yesterday said the Voluntary Work Act 2006 authorizes the national NGOs to enter into partnership with INGOs in order to boost aid delivery and build their capacities, adding the role of national NGOs in the humanitarian field is pivotal but they lack fund and experience. He added that HAC met with the INGOs and obligated them to activate their partnership with the national NGOs in accordance with the Act for the benefit of the state population.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yusuf revealed spontaneous IDP return to villages, saying the IDPs are returning even without informing the commission, owing to the prevalence of security back in the village.

### **Security Council deplores deadly ambush of peacekeepers in Darfur**

**UN News** 22/6/10 - The Security Council has joined the chorus of United Nations condemnation of yesterday's ambush by unknown assailants in Darfur in which three soldiers serving with the

African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force were killed and a fourth was seriously wounded.

More than 20 gunmen opened fire without warning on the blue helmets as they were providing security to civilian engineers working near the West Darfur village of Nertiti, according to UNAMID.

The soldiers, all from Rwanda, returned fire but in the ensuing hour-long firefight three were slain. Three assailants were also killed and the others escaped.

In a statement to the press issued by Mexico, which holds the rotating Council presidency this month, the 15-member panel voiced concern that yesterday's attack occurred little more than a month after two Egyptian peacekeepers serving with UNAMID were killed in South Darfur.

"The members of the Security Council expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attacks as well as to the Government of Rwanda," the statement said. "They encouraged the Government of Sudan to ensure that all the perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice and stressed that there must be an end to impunity for those attacking the peacekeepers."

Yesterday both the mission and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued statements deploring the killing and stressing that UNAMID would not be deterred by the attack from carrying out its mandate to try to bring peace and security to the war-racked region of western Sudan.

## Pre-referendum Watch

### **Egypt reiterates its commitment to support Southern Sudan referendum**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/6/10 - The Arab Republic of Egypt has expressed its commitment to support a free and fair conduct of the Southern Sudan referendum due in January 2011.

This was expressed during the delivery of a congratulatory message from senior officials of the Egyptian government to the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, on his reappointment as Vice President during this "crucial period."

The Egyptian Prime Minister, Dr. Ahmed Nazef and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Abul Gheit, have sent the congratulatory letter to the Vice President, expressing their support to the full implementation of the 2005 North-South peace deal as well as continued cooperation with the semi-autonomous government.

The letter was delivered on Monday to the Vice President by the Egyptian Consul General in Juba, Moayad Fathallah El Dalie. The Egyptian diplomat expressed his country's willingness to play a positive role in the conduct of the upcoming 2011 referendum in Southern Sudan.

Consul General Dalie added that his government would identify areas on which it can provide technical support to the referendum process.

### **NCP refutes SPLM allegations on obstacles to referendum**

**Al-Ayyam** 23/6/10 - NCP has refuted SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum's allegations about obstacles created for the conduct of referendum in January, describing Amum's foreign trips as personal which do not represent SPLM's stand on national issues involving CPA implementation. Ali Tamim Fartak, NCP leading figure, also denounced Amum's allegations that

the NCP is destabilizing the South.

Amum reportedly said pro-NCP elements in the South are seeking to disrupt the conduct of referendum, pointing out that SPLM has many choices including negotiation and military option.

Fartak added that there are internal and external circles trying to portray the NCP as an obstacle to the conduct of referendum. He indicated that Pagan is weakening the chances of the joint committees between the two CPA partners in making unity attractive. Fartak said the SPLM does not possess a clear political will to take decisions on substantial issues and that gave Amum a room to move freely to lobby the US Administration and some western organizations in a bid to realize the will of the southern Sudanese with foreign help.

### **NCP not interested in referendum**

**The Citizen** 23/6/10 – The SPLM has said the NCP is not interested in conducting the referendum for southern Sudan.

In a press conference yesterday at SPLM's Southern Secretariat, SPLM Deputy Secretary-General (Southern Sector) Ann Itto said that the reluctance of the NCP is evident by its delaying demarcation of north-south borders, formation of the referendum commission for southern Sudan and Abyei area and the attacks Khartoum launched against countries that pledged to recognize the independence of the South through the referendum.

“The reason why I said this is that the border between the North and the South as of 1956 is not demarcated and they do not want borders because they have started campaigning for unity,” Itto said. She added that Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir argues that the border could create conflict, as opposed to SPLM's position that neither should the borders be a source of conflict nor a barrier to the 2011 referendum.