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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- Presidency to meet tomorrow to endorse Matrix (***Al-Sahafa***)
- NCP reacts to SPLM's charges of arms to tribes (***Al-Raed***)
- Cairo meeting agrees on unified negotiating team for Darfur (***Al-Ahdath***)
- AU Panel on Darfur meets JSR Adada (***al-Ayyam***)
- Government sources slam Graton, hint dialogue suspension (***al-Sahafa***)
- UN food agency suspends activities in remote area of W. Equatoria (***ST***)
- AUPSC to meet in Addis tomorrow (***SUNA***)
- President Al-Bashir to participate in AU summit in Libya (***Al-Watan***)
- First Lady to address workshop on humanitarian work (***Al-Khartoum***)
- Muslims rights in the South safeguarded – Kiir (***Dailies***)

Links

- Open letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
<http://www.nazret.com/>
- **Commentary:** Mbeki's last chance to come right on Darfur; by Wasil Ali
<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32223>
- **Commentary:** The contradictory policies of NCP in Sudan; by Zechariah Manyok Biar
<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32227>

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Highlights

Presidency to meet tomorrow to endorse Matrix

Al-Sahafa reports the Presidency will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss a range of issues including the matrix agreed upon by the tripartite joint mechanism meeting convened recently in Juba. FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit is due in Khartoum today to take part in the Presidency meeting tomorrow. Reportedly, the six members of the Joint Technical Committee on Abyei Boundaries will be sworn in at the Presidency meeting.

NCP reacts to SPLM's charges of arms to tribes

The NCP has vehemently reacted to the SPLM charges that the NCP is supplying tribes in Darfur with arms, reports **Al-Raed**. NCP official Kamal Obeid told reporters yesterday that the SPLM was leveling such charges because it was suffering an "internal crisis". Obeid has downplayed the announcement by the opposition parties to nominate Salva Kiir to contest presidential elections.

Cairo meeting agrees on unified negotiating team for Darfur

The quadripartite meeting between US envoy Gration, Sudan, Egypt and Libya has culminated in an agreement to set up a unified negotiating team to represent Darfurians in peace talks, **Al-Ahdath** reports. The meeting also discussed ways to normalize Sudan Chad relations.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 23/8/09, the meeting was attended by Sudan's presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen, Egyptian FM Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, Egyptian intelligence chief Omer Suleiman, the Libyan FM, Musa Kusa, the Libyan State Minister Mohamed Al-Sayala, and the US special envoy for Sudan Scott Gration.

Qatar, the current venue of peace talks between Khartoum and JEM, absented itself from the meeting.

Hossam Zaki, the spokesman of the Egyptian Foreign Minister said that the meeting provided an opportunity "to discuss progress on the talks between the different Sudanese parties and all the files for realizing peace and stability in Sudan, including the Darfur file and the relation between the north and the south".

But SLM leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur has slammed Scott Gration, saying he has become a new obstacle in the ongoing efforts to settle Darfur crisis.

"Instead of playing a positive role in the resolution of Darfur conflict in order to stop the ongoing violence against Darfur people, the special envoy of President Obama to Sudan abandoned his mission and has become a problem and an obstacle due to his non-neutral position," Al Nur said.

Speaking to Radio Dabanga about Abdel Wahid Al-Nur, Mr. Scott Gration said "This is not something about Abdel Wahid versus Scott Gration; this is about rebels from all different factions unifying to help and ensure that the will of the people of Darfur is carried out in a process that can make a difference."

Gration was critical of Tripoli and Cairo meeting because they didn't include representatives of

Darfur's large ethnic group of the Fur that Al-Nur belongs to.

Four Darfur rival factions have already announced unification in Addis Ababa. The four factions who attended the US-sponsored meeting are: the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) - Unity, the SLM Juba faction of Ahmed Abdel Shafi, the United Resistance Front (URF) and a breakaway group from the SLM Al-Nur wing led by Ismail Rifa Jara.

The factions agreed to negotiate without precondition with the Sudanese government to realize the demands of Darfur people. They have also pledged to hold a meeting inside Darfur to reunite amongst themselves within 60 days.

AU Panel on Darfur meets JSR Adada

Al-Ayyam reports that the AU Panel on Darfur, headed by the former South African President Thabo Mbeki, which is currently visiting Sudan, met with civil society leaders and AU-UN Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada. The Panel is traveling to Darfur for similar meetings with commanders of Darfur movements. It will return to Khartoum to meet with President Omar Al-Bashir. Reportedly, the Panel will submit its report after its current visit.

Government sources slam Gration, hint dialogue suspension

Government sources have described dialogue with the US Administration as "futile" and hinted possible discontinuation, **Al-Sahafa** reports. The sources said US envoy Scott Gration is making contradictory statements, saying Gration needs to make a lot of efforts to regain their trust.

Meanwhile, Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said the US Administration is divided on the question of sanctions imposed on Sudan. An informed source told the paper that Khartoum officially protested Gration's statements with regard to sanctions on Sudan. Reportedly, Gration did his best to explain why he made the clarification but the government was not convinced.

UN food agency suspends activities in remote area of W. Equatoria

Sudan Tribune website 23/8/09 reported WFP has suspended its activities in some parts of Western Equatoria State following attacks by the notorious LRA.

Earlier this week the WFP reported that the Ugandan rebels attacked Ezo district, in the remote Western Equatoria state near Sudan's border with the DRC, and killed two people and injured three others, on August 12. The LRA also abducted 10 girls from a local church, and they pillaged and torched homes, stealing food.

In a press briefing held yesterday in Khartoum, Mr. Kenro Oshidari, WFP Representative in Sudan told reporters that following LRA rebels attack on their teams in Ezo, the UN food assistance body evacuated its workers and suspended their humanitarian activities there as result of the increasing violence there.

Mr. Oshidari reaffirmed that the WFP would resume its humanitarian assistance in Ezo area as soon as the security situation is improved.

AUPSC to meet in Addis tomorrow

SUNA 23/8/09 reported the meeting of the African Peace and Security Council is due to start Tuesday in Addis Ababa in the presence of the two CPA Partners who will deliver two regular reports on the progress of implementation of the agreement. MFA spokesperson Muawia

Osman Khalid told reporters that the NCP delegation would be chaired by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddig. AEC Chairman Sir Derek Plumbly will also attend.

President Al-Bashir to participate in AU summit in Libya

Al-Watan reports President Omar Al-Bashir will lead Sudan's delegation for participation in AU summit scheduled for 31 September in Tripoli. Director of Africa ambassador Ibrahim Ahmed Abdul Karim said the summit would discuss conflicts in Africa including Darfur, regional security, UNAMID troops and Sudan-Chad relations.

First Lady to address workshop on humanitarian work

Wife of President Omar Al-Bashir, Widad Babikir, who is also the Chairperson of Senat Charity Organization, will address a workshop on the "Sudanization" of voluntary and humanitarian work on Wednesday at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, reports **Al-Khartoum**. Humanitarian Affairs State Minister Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani will also address the workshop. The workshop will be attended by voluntary and humanitarian aid workers as well as experts from international organizations.

Muslims rights in the South safeguarded – Kiir

Local dailies report that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit yesterday addressed a consultation meeting of the South Sudan Islamic Council in Juba. According to **Al-Raed**, Kiir told the meeting that Muslims' rights in the South were protected and criticized some individual behaviours which caused harm to Islamic institutions in the region. He said Muslims in the South are not targeted as claimed by some newspapers, saying GoSS does not discriminate between Southern Sudanese on the basis of religion.