

28 October 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Election and referendum are key issue for peace in Sudan – UN (**ST**)
- SPLM MPs to walk out of new budget debate (**Al-Sahafa**)
- South Sudan and USAID sign \$230m assistance package to support the region (**ST**)
- 26,000 mothers, 305,000 babies die annually – UNICEF (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Opposition parties to discuss AUPD report today (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Opposition may boycott polls – Al-Turabi (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Kiir's statement will not affect partnership – Adviser (**Al-Wifaq**)
- FVP Salva Kiir in Kenya to discuss border tensions (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Gratiation due with three proposals to end dispute on census results (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Obama officially extends sanctions on Sudan (**Reuters**)
- Government dismayed over Washington hostile policy (**Al-Wifaq**)
- 5.4 millions of public money embezzled – Auditor (**Dailies**)
- Deaths of 77 orphans prompts inquiry in Sudan (**Reuters**)
- Darfur kidnappers want \$1 m for Frenchman-source (**Reuters**)
- UN and INGOs to coordinate with South Darfur Government (**Akhir Lahza**)
- 79 political parties authorized to function in the Sudan (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Misseriya and Rizeigat sign reconciliation (**SUNA**)
- UN Day celebrated at Rashid Diab Centre (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)

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

Election and referendum are key issue for peace in Sudan - UN

Sudan Tribune website 27/10/09 — Democratic elections and southern Sudan referendum are the key issues for resolving a long-standing conflict in Sudan, the UN Secretary General said.

Ban Ki-Moon made these remarks in his latest report on the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). This report is scheduled to be discussed by the Security Council on Wednesday.

"The holding of elections and referendums are among the key milestones of the peace agreement ending the long-running north-south civil war in Sudan that have yet to be reached," the UN Secretary General said in his 25 pages report.

"Next year's elections, the first multi-party polls in decades, must be seen as part of a larger process of democratic transformation, requiring a long-term commitment by all parties," he said.

He also said that the apparent targeting of unarmed civilians during the series of tribal attacks and counter-attacks in southern Sudan this year is of grave concern, as are the reports of widespread proliferation of arms in the region.

He calls upon the Government of Southern Sudan to strengthen its efforts to end recurring violence and to bring those responsible to justice.

The Secretary-General concludes by saying that the coming 18 months will pose enormous challenges for the people of the Sudan, and how those challenges are met will largely determine the future of the country.

SPLM MPs to walk out of new budget debate

Al-Sahafa reports SPLM Parliamentary Group chairman Yassir Arman as saying that all SPLM officials at the legislative and executive level would boycott debate on and endorsement of the new budget. Meanwhile, **Rai Al-Shaab** reports Arman said the SPLM would not be party to the crime of endorsing the national security bill in its present form.

South Sudan and USAID sign \$230m assistance package to support the region

Sudan Tribune website 28/10/09 - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) discussed with the leadership of the Government of Southern Sudan the priority areas that need support as the region races toward elections and referendum.

The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny discussed the needed support in this stage of the CPA implementation with the USAID delegation headed by the Agency's Administrator, Alonzo Fulham.

On Monday, USAID represented by Fulham and the semi-autonomous Southern Sudan represented by the minister of Cabinet Affairs, Dr. Luka Tombekana Monoja signed a \$230 million US dollars package to assist the region.

The meeting discussed at length the issues of elections in April 2010 and referendum in

January 2011.

They also discussed the fate of the controversial results of the 2008 population census in their application to the geographical constituencies in Southern Sudan.

The role the American agency would play in supporting the registration of voters and voter education exercises was also discussed.

Empowering law enforcement agencies to provide security and keep law and order during the exercises was also among the top priorities.

Dr. Machar said the SPLM doesn't want a situation that may fail the voters to turnout, adding that logistical issues are challenges that also need support from the American government.

The US agency's Administrator, Alonzo Fulham, assured of his organization's commitment to further support the priorities in the South to achieve the conduct of elections and referendum.

26,000 mothers, 305,000 babies die annually – UNICEF

UNICEF has warned of rising rate of death of women during child-birth, *Al-Sahafa* reports. UNICEF Country Director Nils Kastberg told a press conference at UNMIS HQs yesterday that although five years have passed since the CPA signing, the situation was still a cause of concern particularly with regard to maternal mortality, indicating that 26,000 women die annually during childbirth, nearly 13,300 in the South compared to 12,700 in the North.

Opposition parties to discuss AUPD report today

Al-Akhbar reports the leaders of the Sudanese opposition parties, trade unions and civil society organizations who participated in Juba conference will hold a meeting today to discuss the Mbeki-led AU Panel on Darfur's report. Umma Party Reform and Renewal leader Mubarak Al-Fadil Al-Mahdi said they would review the report to submit a memo to the AUPSC meeting scheduled to convene tomorrow in Abuja. He said the SPLM boycott of the Parliament, electoral roll and implementation of the Juba Conference recommendations would also be discussed.

In a related development, *Sudan Tribune website* 27/10/09 reported the Joint Mediator described as "tremendous effort" the report of the African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD) saying Sudanese parties should reach through a constructive peace process the best formula to enforce its findings.

Djbril Bassolé was in Paris for talks with the French officials on the upcoming of peace negotiation he organizes in the Qatari capital, Doha on November 16 and will start with a workshop for the civil society.

He traveled to the Nigerian capital Abuja to attend the African Union Peace and Security Council meeting which will discuss a report on ways to achieve peace and justice in the troubled region.

The AUDP suggests creating hybrid courts to try those accountable of Darfur crimes during the counterinsurgency campaign by the Government army and militias. It also suggests a number of measures designed to provide security for the local population while the talks commence.

The AU-UN mediator is expected to brief the meeting about his efforts during the recent period and to inform them about his plans in order to end the six year conflict in western Sudan. He will also urge them to support the Doha process.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune from Paris, Mr. Bassole said the report of African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD) is the result of a "tremendous effort" exerted by the eight members laying out the road for justice and peace in Darfur.

Nonetheless, the chief mediator stressed that the Sudanese parties, through a constructive and serious peace negotiations should define the modalities to concretize the recommendations of the report.

"I believe dialogue between the Sudanese parties to the conflict would allow us to find the needed formula to realize peace, to improve the humanitarian situation and settle the dispute on the land and of course to achieve justice."

The chief mediator said the meeting should encourage Khartoum to make concessions in order to lend credibility to the peace process.

He further urged Khalil Ibrahim the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to show openness and to be more inclusive.

He also called upon Abdel Wahid Al-Nur, the founder of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) to not dissociate himself from the peace process and to take a courageous decision to join the peace process.

The panel in its report dealt with the peace process and gave some guidelines similar to the roadmap adopted by the Chief Mediator to achieve peace in Darfur.

The eight members speak about a Truce, Adoption of a Framework Agreement, Negotiation of a Permanent Ceasefire, Negotiation of a Global Political Agreement and to involve civil society, IDPs and refugees, native administration and the nomads of Darfur.

In another development, **Reuters** 27/10/09 reported a major rebel group on Tuesday rejected an African Union report on solving the six-year conflict in Darfur.

The Justice and Equality Movement, the most powerful rebel group in Darfur, said serious crimes committed there should be tried by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

"The report is not clear in what they are saying about the ICC," said JEM spokesman Ahmed Adam. "Concerning the serious crimes in Darfur, including genocide, the only legal mechanism ... is the ICC."

Sudanese rights activist Faysal el-Bagir said the panel compromised too much. "It's not a real solution and it's not going to get the trust of the Darfuri people," he told Reuters. "Mbeki has failed to represent the views of the Darfuri opposition -- he leans more to the government side."

Some Sudanese commentators urged the government to accept the report. "There is nothing wrong in starting a new course that might succeed in drawing a road map that is more realistic and more tied to what is happening on the ground," said Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh, editor of the independent al-Ayyam daily.

The opposition Umma Party said the panel found a good compromise between international and national justice. "(The panel) did their best to reach a solution which should be acceptable inside and outside Sudan," Umma Party Vice President Fadlalla Burma Nasir said.

Opposition may boycott polls – Al-Turabi

The Secretary-General of the Popular Congress Party Hassan Al-Turabi did not rule out the possibility that the opposition parties might form a coalition to back one candidate to contest in the presidential race, *Akhir Lahza* reports. Speaking to *Al-Jazeera* yesterday, Al-Turabi said that the opposition has set conditions that have to be met in order for them to participate in the polls. He pointed out that these parties would wait until the end of November, adding they might boycott the polls if the conditions are not met.

Kiir's statement will not affect partnership – Adviser

The NCP announced that statements by FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit on possible separation of the South would not affect the partnership between the two parties, *Al-Wifaq* reports. Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail who made the remarks yesterday in Khartoum described the SPLM's statements as tactics to pressurize the NCP to make concessions on pending issues.

FVP Salva Kiir in Kenya to discuss border tensions

Talks in Nairobi between President Mwai Kibaki and FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit focused on relations between the two countries, the implementation of the CPA and border tensions, reports *Al-Ahdath*.

GoSS Minister for Regional Affairs, Oyai Deng, said that the two sides have also decided to form a joint committee to help resolve the causes of tension between the Toposa and Turkana tribes of Sudan and Kenya respectively.

Gration due with three proposals to end dispute on census results

GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong has revealed that US envoy Scott Gration would visit Sudan early next week carrying three proposals to resolve the dispute between the NCP and the SPLM over the census results, *Al-Sahafa* reports. Biong said Gration would hold separate meetings with the NCP and the SPLM for discussion on those proposals.

Obama officially extends sanctions on Sudan

Reuters 27/10/09 - US President Barack Obama formally renewed U.S. sanctions on Sudan on Tuesday under his new strategy of keeping up pressure while offering incentives to the Khartoum government.

The one-year extension, which Obama made official in a notice to the U.S. Congress, followed his announcement earlier this month of a new carrot-and-stick policy aimed at ending violence in Sudan's Darfur region and the semi-autonomous South.

Obama, who during last year's U.S. presidential campaign urged a tougher line on Khartoum, has justified the shift as necessary to prevent the oil-rich African giant from falling further into chaos.

Unveiling the revised strategy on Oct. 19, the administration set goals to end war crimes in Darfur and ensure implementation of a fraying 2005 peace deal between Khartoum and former southern rebels ahead of national elections next year and a 2011 referendum on southern secession.

Announcement of the new Sudan policy followed months of speculation which saw Obama's special envoy for Sudan, Scott Gration -- a proponent of more engagement with Khartoum -- pitted against more skeptical members of the administration. The result, many analysts agreed, was a compromise.

U.S. officials said Washington's outreach to Khartoum would not include President Omar

Hassan al-Bashir, indicted in March by the International Criminal Court for war crimes while fighting mostly non-Arab rebels in Darfur.

In his message to Congress, Obama said the actions and policies of the Sudan Government "pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

"Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat," he wrote.

The renewed sanctions restrict United States trade with and investment in Sudan, block all property of the Sudanese Government in the United States and ban transactions with individuals and entities determined to be contributing to the conflict in Darfur.

"The renewal of these tough sanctions is a testament to the United States' continued commitment to improving the lives of the Sudanese people," a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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

Government dismayed over Washington hostile policy

Al-Wifaq reports the Sudanese Government informed the US Embassy in Khartoum about its rejection of Washington's hostile policy toward Sudan as well as the overall US discourse. NCP official Qutbi Al-Mahdi at meeting with US Embassy counselor said the Government would not be hasty in reacting to the US hostile policy. Meanwhile, Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail affirmed that dialogue with the US would continue, stressing the need to build bilateral relations between the two countries on mutual interests and non-interference in internal affairs.

5.4 millions of public money embezzled – Auditor

Local dailies report Auditor General Abu Baker Abdullah Marin has told the Parliament that cases of corruption in state institutions have risen. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the amount embezzled public money reached 5.4 million pounds during the period from early September last year until the end of August this year compared to 2.4 million pounds for the last period. Mr. Marin, who presented a report to the National Assembly yesterday, said the Ministry of Finance was the most affected institution.

Deaths of 77 orphans prompts inquiry in Sudan

Reuters 27/10/09 - The deaths of 77 children at Sudan's main orphanage has sparked an investigation, officials said on Tuesday, in a case that has lifted the lid on the plight of abandoned infants in Africa's largest state.

"We have seen the official figures and they are horrifying. I welcome the decision that there will be an investigation into the current situation at Mygoma," Nils Kastberg, UNICEF's Sudan representative, told Reuters, referring to the state-owned orphanage where the deaths occurred.

The manager of the charity operating in the Khartoum orphanage defended his record, telling Reuters he had saved thousands of children and adding that deaths were inevitable given the condition of babies when they arrived.

"The numbers were high... But last month we received 46 premature babies. Many of them were suffering from septicemia. What am I going to do?" Mohamed Muhedin Elgemiabby, head of Ana Assudan, the charity contracted to care for the children in Mygoma, said.

"Most are delivered early. They were born in unhygienic areas. They are found in water canals, in sewers ... They need incubators but it is very difficult to find incubators."

The United Nations estimates hundreds of babies are abandoned in Khartoum every year by women in the predominantly Muslim country unable to bear the stigma of having a child outside marriage. Half of the infants die before getting help.

Most of those found on the streets of the capital are taken to Mygoma where authorities try to find new homes with families.

Khartoum state's ministry of social welfare on Tuesday told Reuters 77 children had died in the orphanage in September, the highest number recorded in four years.

"There is a committee which is there to give us details about everything, starting with the food," said Mona Mustapha Khogalai, the head of the ministry's social welfare department.

She said the death toll might be explained by higher than usual admissions of infants and their weakened condition.

"I think these may be some of the causes. Maybe there are other causes. I am waiting for the committee to give me their report," she said.

UNICEF, the U.N. children's agency, welcomed the investigation.

"It is bad enough that so many babies die every month in the streets of Khartoum," Kastberg told journalists.

"Those that survive are taken to an orphanage where too many of them subsequently die."

Darfur kidnappers want \$1 million for Frenchman-source

Reuters 27/10/09 - Darfuri kidnappers of a French/British Red Cross aid worker have demanded a \$1 million ransom, which Sudan has refused to pay, a high-level security source told Reuters on Tuesday.

Armed men snatched Gauthier Lefevre last week in Sudan's restive Darfur region, the fifth abduction of foreign workers since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes in March.

"The kidnappers called Government authorities last night and demanded a ransom," the senior source in Sudan's intelligence service said, adding it was the equivalent of about \$1 million.

"This is now a red line. The government will not be paying any ransom," the source added.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokeswoman Tamara al-Rifai confirmed a ransom had been demanded.

"As a policy we don't pay ransom. We go through our normal channels of dialogue, persuasion

and the peaceful resolution of such a crisis," she said.

Lefevre, a dual national working in Sudan on his French passport, was captured just days after the release of two female staff from Irish aid agency Goal who endured more than 100 days in a mountain-top prison in Darfur.

A tribal leader said he was told their kidnappers had been paid money to release them, a charge Sudan strongly denies.

But aid staff in Darfur worry even rumours of ransoms being paid and the fact Sudan has yet to apprehend any of the kidnappers is enough to encourage further abductions in the lawless region, reeling from more than six years of rebellion.

The security source told Reuters: "If we fail to get them out by peaceful means we will get them out by force," of both Lefevre and the two peacekeepers, adding the Government knew who their captors were and their location.

But he added: "The government's priority is, of course, the safety of the hostages."

UN and INGOs to coordinate with South Darfur Government

Akhir Lahza reports that the Government of South Darfur held a meeting yesterday with 12 UN agencies, 35 INGOs, Turkish and Saudi Red Crescent societies on ways to coordinate humanitarian efforts. Governor Ali Mahmoud Mohamed revealed that a number of countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and Turkey have expressed interest to contribute to the humanitarian effort and to improve services in the state. He said that delegations from these states are currently touring areas of voluntary return.

79 political parties authorized to function in the Sudan

President Al-Bashir has praised the work of the Political Parties' Affairs Council and has pledged support to enable the Council reach its objectives, **Al-Wifaq** reports. Following a meeting yesterday with the President, the head of the Political Parties' Affairs Council Mohamed Bushara Dousa revealed that 79 political parties have been registered and authorized to contest in the forthcoming elections.

Misseriya and Rizeigat sign reconciliation

SUNA 27/10/09 - Misseriya and Rezeigat tribes Tuesday signed a reconciliation agreement in the presence of the Vice-President of the Republic, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, the governors of the states of Southern Kordofan and South Darfur and leaders of the two tribes.

UN Day celebrated at Rashid Diab Centre

Rashid Diab Arts Centre in collaboration with UNMIS and UN Association Sudan celebrated the UN Day on the evening of 25th October, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. The function was attended by a large number of officials, diplomats, civil society organizations, communities and artists. National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang was the chief guest. Mr. Atem, in his speech to the function praised UN work and concern for humanity, citing UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO.