

30 August 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Casualties in Jonglei rose to 43, SPLA is hunting the attackers (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Abyei Boundary Commission's duration extended (**Al-Wifaq**)
- President Al-Bashir to visit Libya today (**Al-Sahafa**)
- FVP to visit South Africa next month (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Two northern traders assaulted in Juba (**Al-Intibaha**)
- New peacekeeping mandates needed for LRA hunt – UN (**AFP**)
- Uganda bans food exports to South Sudan – report (**ST**)
- Two peacekeepers abducted in Zalingei (**Dailies**)
- Sudan's SPLM may boycott October's parliamentary session (**ST**)
- SPLM rejects NCP conditions on Juba conference (**ST**)
- AU to send delegation to assess Sudan's elections (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Southern Women Leaders oppose early marriage practices (**Miraya FM**)
- Sudan slams Libyan leader over pro-secession remarks (**ST**)
- Torrential rain continue, schools closed for a week (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Southern political parties hold conference in Wau (**Miraya FM**)
- Sudan wraps up deals over contested oil blocks (**Reuters**)
- Religious group threatens to use force against Communist Party (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Scottish agency takes over from a US agency in Darfur (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Pentagon mulls assistance to Darfur peacekeeping force & SPLA (**ST**)
- Tripartite mechanism to meet in NY to assess UNAMID (**Al-Intibaha**)

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

Casualties in Jonglei rose to 43, SPLA is hunting the attackers

Al-Ayyam reports SPLM spokesperson Kuol Dim Kuol has accused Khartoum of having a hand in the inter-tribal conflict in the South, saying logistic support is still coming to the LRA from some circles in Khartoum. He said the SPLA has sent a force of 78 personnel to hunt the attackers and to bring the situation under control, pointing out that casualties have reached 43. According to **Al-Ahdath**, the NCP has rejected the charge, saying the SPLM has failed to control security in the region.

Sudan Tribune website 29/8/09 reported at least 43 people have been killed and over 60 others severely injured in Jonglei's Twic East County when raiders from neighboring Lou Nuer attacked at dawn a Payam headquarters on Friday.

State Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk told the Sudan tribune on Saturday that "security is being strengthened in the area [Lith Payam]" to prevent future "hostile killings."

Wernyol in Lith Payam, inhabited by members of Dinka Bor ethnic community, is the first administrative unit to be targeted in the latest attack from Lou Nuer of Urur County. Area representative to state assembly Abel Manyok told the Sudan tribune Friday that "preliminary casualties were low and would increase."

Mr. Manyok was speaking at the time when only 7 people were reported killed and 4 others injured.

The revise-increase in figures to 43 dead was confirmed by victims of the attack. Of the 64 wounded, 15 in critical condition are being nursed in Juba where 13 remain at Panyagor; the headquarters of Twic East County. The Civil Administrator (CA) is among the wounded.

Of the 43 people dead, 38 are from Twic East, 1 from Duk and 2 from Lou Nuer who are said to be the raiders. Wernyol Archdeacon and a student from Dr. John Garang Institute of science and technology are among the dead. 7 South Sudan army (SPLA) soldiers were also killed.

"We condemn these hostile activities which are destructive," said Gov. Kuol when asked to comment. "We argue the leadership of local communities to refrain and restrain wrong elements from carrying out atrocities. We shall work hard [collectively] to apprehend the perpetrators," he added.

According to **AFP** 29/8/09, at least 43 people have been killed, including seven soldiers, and dozens wounded in clashes between troops and cattle rustlers in south Sudan, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Gunmen attacked a small settlement in the Twic East region of Jonglei state early on Friday, said Major General Kuol Diem Kuol, of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"The men attacked at the settlement of Wernyol at 5:00 am with guns, coming to take the cattle, and to loot and steal.

"There was only a small police force based in Wernyol, and they were soon overrun, but nearby SPLA platoons heard the shooting and rushed to the area."

Fighting then broke out between around 70 soldiers and the raiders, who are reported to come from the Lou Nuer ethnic group. The people of Wernyol are from the Bor Dinka group.

"In total there were at least 36 civilians who were killed, and more than 50 were wounded, some seriously," said Kuol.

"In addition there were seven soldiers who died, and three more who were wounded." It was not immediately clear how many of the raiders died.

"The livestock that was taken was returned to the people by the soldiers," Kuol added.

"The situation is now calm, and the SPLA have deployed extra units to ensure security is maintained."

Abyei Boundary Commission's duration extended

The Abyei Administration said that the committee tasked to supervise demarcation of the area's boundary has encountered obstacles, **Al-Wifaq** reports. Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Moyak revealed that the committee had complained of lack of necessary technical facilities, saying the duration of the committee's work has been extended for another month.

Meanwhile, the NCP and the SPLM have suspended indefinitely their consultations over the North-South border demarcation. They urged the Presidency to intervene to address contentious points.

In a related development, the Abyei Administration has called upon the Presidency of the Republic to use the Unity Support Fund to expedite the implementation of development projects in the Area, **Akhir Lahza** reports. AAA Deputy Chief Administrator was supposed to visit Abyei last week to launch roads, electricity, water and school projects but the visit was postponed.

President Al-Bashir off to Libya today

President Al-Bashir will lead a delegation to Libya today to take part in an AU summit scheduled for 31 August, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Reportedly, the summit will discuss a range of issues including Darfur, UNAMID and Sudan-Chad relations.

According to **Al-Intibaha**, Presidents Al-Bashir and Idriss Deby of Chad are likely to meet on the sidelines of the AU summit in a bid to patch up their differences.

In a related development, **Sudan Tribune website** 29/8/09 reported Venezuelan President, Hugo Chavez, has extended an invitation to his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al-Bashir to participate at the Second Africa- South America Summit scheduled to take place in Caracas at the end of next month.

September's Summit between African and South American nations will seek a joint vision between both continents, and construct the basis for the pluri-polar world that has already been born.

Sudanese foreign minister has appreciated the invitation which affirms firmness of the solidarity between the peoples of Africa and Latin America.

Minister Deng Alor also hailed the progressing relations between Sudan and Venezuela.

FVP to visit South Africa next month

Al-Sahafa reports FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit will visit South Africa next months to hold a series of meetings with government officials including President of South Africa on the CPA and the Darfur crisis.

Two northern traders assaulted in Juba

Al-Intibaha reports that two northern traders were wounded, one seriously, in Juba yesterday. Reportedly, the two traders came under intense firing from two gunmen on motorcycle while on their way to their shops. Relatives of the traders have called on the Presidency to intervene to protect northern traders in the South.

New peacekeeping mandates needed for LRA hunt - UN

AFP 27/8/09 - KAMPALA — Changes to the UN peacekeepers' mandates are essential to curb attacks by Ugandan rebels and facilitating relief to southern Sudan, a top UN official said here Thursday.

"Clearly the mandate for us to go after the LRA is not within the current Security Council mandate," Susana Malcorra, the UN Undersecretary General for field support on peacekeeping operations, said.

The UN recently suspended aid to south Sudan's Western Equatoria province, which borders the DRC, following an upsurge in attacks by the LRA.

Malcorra explained that the UN's peacekeeping force in DR Congo (MONUC) and the deployment in Sudan (UNMIS) both lack the capacity and the authority to address the problem in Western Equatoria.

"The fact the LRA has a huge impact in south Sudan may require us to reshuffle some of our priorities," she said. "The Security Council will have to review the mandate as we move forward."

Malcorra was in Kampala to discuss several regional security issues, including Uganda's contribution to the African Union force in Somalia, where the UN is mulling deploying peacekeepers.

Meanwhile, the **New Vision** 27/8/09 reported that the United Nations is considering revising the mandate of its peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan so that they can join the hunt for LRA leader Joseph Kony. "The concern of what is happening in the DRC is high in the United Nations," said Susana Malcorra, the Under-Secretary General for field support on UN peacekeeping operations, in Kampala yesterday. Malcorra said the marauding LRA rebels have had a huge negative impact on the peace and reconstruction process in Southern Sudan.

According to **AlertNet** 27/8/09, LRA Indiscriminate attacks on civilians have uprooted more than 125,000 people in the last three weeks on the borders of three central African countries, UNHCR said. Attacks by the LRA on villages and towns in southern Sudan, DRC and CAR have displaced thousands and forced aid agencies to evacuate their staff to safety in some places.

Uganda bans food exports to South Sudan - report

Sudan Tribune website 29/8/09 —Ugandan Government has stopped food export to Southern Sudan following criticism over the worsening famine in the country, the **Daily Monitor** disclosed

today.

Since last June it was reported that food exports to southern Sudan had negatively affected Uganda's food security as the farmers prefer to export their production to Juba where they are attracted by the good prices.

Following directives from "above" government had decided to suspend food exports to stabilize stocks on local markets said a high ranking official of Uganda Export Promotions Board, speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to the daily, last week, a number of trucks ferrying bananas, or Matooke they call it, and cereals to Juba via Oraba customs post in Koboko District in northwestern Uganda were reportedly turned away.

However Ugandan Trade Minister, Mr. Kahinda Otafiire dismissed the existence of such ban. "I don't know anything like that. We are continuing to export all the agricultural products."

Speaking last June, President Museveni said the Ugandan exports for last financial year stood at \$2.8 billion compared with \$2.6 billion the year before, mainly due to increased regional demand.

Two peacekeepers abducted in Zalingei

Local dailies report gunmen abducted two UNAMID peacekeepers (Nigerian and Tanzanian) from the town of Zalingei in West Darfur State.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 29/8/09, the incident occurred in Zalingei, 100 km southeast of El-Geneina the capital of West Darfur state, at about 04.30 hours and the two staff members, one woman and one man, were taken at gunpoint by four or five gunmen from their residence to an unknown destination, said the UNAMID.

UNAMID spokesperson said the kidnapper had contacted the peacekeeping mission and asked for ransom but he declined to identify them or to give further details.

The head of the UNAMID Rodolphe Adada has called for the immediate and unconditional release of the captives, urging their abductors to return them unharmed.

The Sudanese authorities assured the mission they are taking the necessary measures to secure their release.

The peacekeeping mission withheld the identity of the seized staffers but Sudanese state minister for humanitarian affairs, Abdel Baqi Al-Jailani told Reuters the kidnap victims were a Nigerian man and a Tanzanian woman.

Sudan's SPLM may boycott October's parliamentary session

Sudan Tribune website 29/8/09 — Yasir Arman, chairperson of SPLM parliamentary bloc at the National Assembly has warned that his party would boycott the next month session if the passage of referendum bill in parliament is not seen as one of the top priorities.

The NCP says the referendum law should be made in a way that southern Sudanese in the whole Sudan participate and separation would only be possible if it wins 75% yes vote. The SPLM says only southerners inside the ten Southern Sudan states should take part and simple

majority of 51% must be required for the independence.

SPLM rejects NCP conditions on Juba conference

Sudan Tribune website 29/8/09 — SPLM has rejected conditions put by its peace partner to participate in all-party conference in Juba to discuss ways to make unity attractive and the right to self determination for Southern Sudan.

The NCP has said it would take part on two conditions: to be involved in its organization and to include more political parties instead of inviting opposition parties only.

"We do not accept NCP's conditions," said SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum in statements published by **Ajras Al Huriyya**. He further said they cannot invite some 60 registered political parties "So we have called the active political forces and some of the parties participating in the government of national unity"

Speaking about the agenda of the meeting, Pagan reaffirmed that the conference will discuss transition from authoritarianism to democracy and ways to ensure fair and free elections. The conference aims to develop a national vision on how to make the unity an attractive option in 2011 referendum, he added.

He further stressed that this conference aims to confirm the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan people adding "This dialogue is important to develop a national vision on how to manage the results of the referendum, whether for unity or separation."

AU to send delegation to assess Sudan's elections

Al-Sahafa reports the African Union Peace and Security Council gave instructions to dispatch of a team to Sudan to assess the ongoing preparations for next year's elections.

The delegation will meet the Sudanese government, NEC officials and other stakeholders to assess the readiness to hold the elections and to review progress on the implementation of the CPA.

Southern Women Leaders oppose early marriage practices

Miraya FM 29/8/09 - a 14-day Public Dialogue on women participation in society and governance has closed in Juba on Friday. The women leaders made recommendations to the Government of Southern Sudan and other state governments to establish appropriate measures to prevent the practices of early marriages and early pregnancy.

Sudan slams Libyan leader over pro-secession remarks

Sudan Tribune website 27/8/09 — The Sudanese government today expressed outrage over statements by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in which he reiterated his support to an independent South Sudan.

The Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail said that the Libyan leader's statements "if true would represent a dangerous shift and big change to the convictions of Gaddafi on African unity and the unity of Sudan".

The political bureau officer at the NCP Mandoor Al-Mahdi said that Gaddafi's remarks are "unacceptable and unfortunate". "It is bizarre and inconsistent with his ideology calling for Arab and African unity and it is inconceivable that he would be a contributing factor to division....we

are with Sudan's unity and that South and North should remain united" Al-Mahdi said. He said that Khartoum would request clarification from Tripoli.

Torrential rain continue, schools closed for a week

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the torrential rains which continue to lash Khartoum for the third consecutive day killed five children (brothers) in Omdurman when their house collapsed while they were asleep. Reportedly, thousands of houses have been destroyed and many people killed in rain-related incidents.

While the Ministry of Health has warned of a possible humanitarian catastrophe, the Ministry of Education closed primary and secondary schools for a week.

Al-Khartoum reports the Sudanese Red Crescent has warned of a possible environmental catastrophe in Khartoum State if authorities fail to drain rainwater from Khartoum roads especially that more rains are predicted. The Red Crescent has directed a call to the international association of the Red Crescents, the Arab Red Crescents and UN Agencies to assist the victims, saying \$50 million is needed for the effort.

According to **Miraya FM**, the director of Khartoum state Civil Defense Corporation, Abdella Omer al Hassen, said a total of 400 houses in Khartoum are reported to have collapsed due to heavy rains and there were concern over the humanitarian situation.

Southern political parties hold conference in Wau

Miraya FM 30/8/09 - Six political parties operating in Southern Sudan held a meeting in Wau on Saturday, in a bid to form a common position on various issues of concern. The six parties, excluding the two signatories of the CPA, are the Sudan African National Union (SANU), Southern Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF), United Democratic Front (UDF), Popular Congress Party (PCP), United Democratic Sudan Forum (UDSF) and Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP).

The Acting Chairperson of SANU, Lino Juma Marcellino, told Miraya FM that the parties deliberated on how to consolidate their relations and financial status with the aim of forming an umbrella body.

They also discussed the future of Southern Sudan which the parties said should be left to the people's decision through referendum.

Regarding the current stalemate created in the Western Bahr el-Ghazal State Legislative Assembly, Mr. Marcellino explained the consensus reached by the parties.

The same political parties on 22 August rejected the latest census results as the basis for the upcoming elections.

Sudan wraps up deals over contested oil blocks

Reuters 29/8/09 - Sudan said this week it had finalized settlements on two disputed oil blocks in its strife-torn south as it seeks to reconcile agreements made by both the Khartoum government and former southern rebels.

Some foreign firms have withdrawn after finding concessions empty of oil, while a Total-led (TOTF.PA) consortium has been ordered to pay compensation to a firm forced out two years ago, illustrating the uncertainties of operating in the country.

Authorities in Khartoum and the semi-autonomous south have sparred over conflicting claims to oil rights since signing a 2005 peace accord that ended a 22-year-long conflict.

Most of Sudan's oil has been found in the landlocked south, while refineries and Sudan's only commercial port lie in the north.

Sudan's National Petroleum Commission (NPC) -- which met this week after a long hiatus -- ruled that a consortium led by France's Total (TOTF.PA) must pay \$11 million to former explorer White Nile Ltd, the south's oil minister John Luk said.

White Nile, which was ordered off the contested oil block in 2007, has since changed its name to Agriterra (AGTAR.L) and shifted its focus to agriculture across Africa.

The Total consortium also includes Kuwaiti Kufpec and Sudan's state oil companies Sudapet and Nilepet.

Luk said the NPC had also confirmed Moldovan Oil Company Ascom had rights to explore the contested block 5b, after the withdrawal of the White Nile Petroleum Operating Company (WNPOC), a consortium led by Petronas of Malaysia.

WNPOC pulled out three months ago, the minister said, "Because they had made some test drilling of three wells. They were dry and given the current financial crisis, maybe they didn't feel like investing more capital on the block."

Luk said the commission was open to other companies coming into the block to form a new consortium with Ascom, which has also drilled three test wells that have been dry.

Ascom, like White Nile, signed on with the southern government after the peace deal even though the block had already been awarded to the Petronas consortium by Khartoum. For more than a year both companies were exploring for oil in the block.

The NPC is the country's top oil decision-making body.

Luk added that two Spanish companies H Oil and Star Petroleum were interested in exploring the new block Ea, a long slim block that runs along the western flank of four other already commissioned blocks.

The NPC had set up a committee to assess the companies and would "decide whether to allocate the block to both or to one", he said. (Reporting by Skye Wheeler, editing by Andrew Heavens and Alastair Sharp)

Religious group threatens to use force against Communist Party

A religious group known as the "Legal Association of Scholars and Preachers" in Sudan has called on the government to reconsider the registration of the Sudan's Communist Party, **Al-Sahafa** reports. The group warned that if the government does not act, it would stop the party's activity by force. The group, which read out a statement at a press conference yesterday in Khartoum, reiterated that the Communist Party is "Kafir", adding that those who believe in its ideology are "Kafir, apostates and aberrant who carry destructive ideas".

Scottish agency takes over from a US agency in Darfur

Mercy Corps (Scotland) launched its humanitarian operations in Darfur yesterday, replacing the ousted Mercy Corps (USA), **Akhir Lahza** reports. According to sources, the agency has actually opened offices in Khartoum and would operate in the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, Southern

Kordofan and Kassala.

Pentagon mulls assistance to Darfur peacekeeping force & SPLA

Sudan Tribune website 27/8/09 - The US Department of Defense (DOD) is considering sending advisers to assist UNAMID, according to a US-based Inside the Pentagon (ITP). The newsletter quoted Vicki Huddleston, the new Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa as saying that the Pentagon hopes to offer advisers mainly on logistical issues.

However, such a step would likely to face stiff resistance from Khartoum which had vehemently opposed any non-African units as part of UNAMID.

In Khartoum, **Al-Ahdath** quotes an informed government source as saying that such step could be discussed at the forthcoming meeting between Sudan, AU, and UN in New York next month. Muttrif Siddig, Undersecretary for Sudan's foreign ministry, said he has no information that the US is considering such a support for UNAMID. He pointed out however that such an issue is bound to fail if it is not discussed with the relevant parties.

Tripartite mechanism to meet in NY to assess UNAMID

The joint Sudan, AU, and UN mechanism meeting on the UNAMID will convene in New York on 07/09/09 on the fringes of the UN General Assembly meeting. Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Muttrif Siddig would head the Sudan delegation while Susan Malcorra and Ramadhan Al-Amamra will head the UN and AU teams respectively