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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

UNMIS welcomes lifting of pre-publication censorship on newspaper

Local dailies report UNMIS issued a statement welcoming the reported decision by President Omar Al-Bashir to lift pre-publication censorship on newspapers with immediate effect. According to **Al-Sudani**, UNMIS stated that the decision would advance the implementation of the CPA and is an important step toward creating an appropriate environment for the multi-party elections scheduled for April 2010.

Al-Bashir re-elected NCP head, nominated a presidential candidate

Local dailies report the ruling NCP's Consultative Council yesterday re-elected Omar Al-Bashir a party chairman for another term and also nominated him a candidate for the upcoming elections. According to **Al-Sahafa**, President Al-Bashir, while addressing the NCP Consultative meeting yesterday said freedom of expression would be guaranteed but warned against foreign agenda. He accused unnamed foreign bodies of attempts to exploit domestic forces to undermine the country.

Meanwhile, **Al-Khartoum** reports Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as saying that the NCP's relationship with the SPLM is strategic, adding the NCP would continue to assist the SPLM to transform into a political party, stressing the need for guaranteeing freedom in the South.

Sudan Tribune website 29/9/09 quoted Sudan's state news agency (SUNA) as saying that the announcement of the nomination had been made during the Shura (consultation) Council meeting held Tuesday. The nomination will be submitted in accordance with the Statute of the party, to the convention, which begins its work on Thursday with the participation of six thousand delegates from various parts of Sudan."

Bashir, who is the sole nominee of the NCP for next year presidential election, expressed hope that he would meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people, the grass roots and the leadership of the party. He also pledged to secure the best interest of the country.

UN funds Juba conference, NCP monopolizing power - SPLM

SPLM has defended its organization of the political parties' conference in Juba, saying the forum aims at addressing national issues and promoting the peace process, **Al-Khartoum** reports. The SPLM refuted the NCP's claims that the conference was intended to derail the CPA, pledging to struggle for the implementation of the conference's recommendations. "The conference was self-financed but some sources have also helped including the UN which assisted in transporting participants from Khartoum to Juba," SPLM SG, Pagan Amum, told a press conference yesterday in Juba, adding that the SPLM will communicate the recommendations to the GoNU and the international community and called on the parties which walked out of the conference to engage in dialogue to argue their case.

The **Citizen** reports Amum as saying that the conference has been funded through private local sources, dismissing receipt of \$18 million from foreign sources. He told journalists yesterday that the conference had been financed through the Movement's private funds, acknowledging that they have received logistic support from the UN in terms of air transportation of participants between Khartoum and Juba.

According to ***Al-Ayyam***, Amum also accused the NCP of supplying arms to tribes in the South to undermine stability in the region.

Hassanain and SRSG Qazi due in Juba today

Al-Akhbar reports SPLM SG Pagan Amum has said that DUP deputy chairman Ali Mahmoud Hassanain would arrive in Juba today to participate in Juba conference of political parties. Sources said SRSG Ashraf Qazi is also expected to arrive in Juba today to attend the closing session of the conference.

Ban deplores killing of UNAMID peacekeeper

UN News 29/9/09 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today strongly condemned an attack on UNAMID convoy that resulted in the death of a peacekeeper, and appealed to Sudanese authorities to ensure that those responsible are held to account. The convoy carrying civilian and military personnel was attacked on Monday evening by six to eight armed men in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur.

“The Secretary-General calls on the Government of Sudan to do its utmost to identify the perpetrators and to hold them accountable for this deadly attack,” his spokesperson said in a statement. Mr. Ban called on all sides involved in the Darfur conflict to respect the integrity of the blue helmets, while underscoring the UN’s commitment to continue peacekeeping, mediation and humanitarian efforts in the war-wracked region on the western flank of Sudan.

UNAMID also called on the Sudanese authorities “to speedily investigate this wanton incident to bring the perpetrators to justice,” in a news release condemning the attack.

Initial reports say the men opened fire without warning on the convoy, which comprised three vehicles, and stole one of the vehicles. Three military personnel were injured and taken to the El Geneina hospital, and subsequently evacuated by helicopter to the UNAMID hospital in Nyala, South Darfur, more than 300 kilometres from El Geneina. “One of the peacekeepers succumbed to his injuries shortly afterwards,” the Mission stated.

Abyei Boundary Demarcation Committee’s work ceased

A source told ***Al-Sahafa*** that the work of the Abyei Boundary Committee which was supposed to kick off last Monday has stopped because the JIUs tasked to provide protection were ordered to return to barracks. The source said all preparations have been finalized for the start of the demarcation work but now the work is stopped because the JIUs were ordered to cease escorting the team. According to the source, the Presidency was informed about the development and an official was dispatched to Kadogli to address the issue.

Lou Nuer call on Presidency to intervene to halt attacks

Al-Intibaha reports Lou Nuer tribe leaders have accused NISS Deputy DG Gen. Majack Atem (SPLA) of abuse of authority and power by colluding in attacks intended to annihilate their tribe. The Lou Nuer leaders claimed having noted suspicious movements on the part of Gen. Atem and Governor of Jonglei to incite a war between them and the Murle. The tribal leaders called on the Presidency and the international community to urgently intervene to save them from a possible Dinka attack. The Lou Nuer students union has also appealed to the FVP Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit to order halt of the military force moving toward Lou Nuer areas in order to disarm them by force.

Egypt to host international conference on Darfur

Al-Khartoum reports Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail as saying that an international conference on Darfur would be held in Egypt by the end of this year, adding the Darfur issue

would be resolved before the end of the year. Mr. Ismail, who made the remarks yesterday at the African Parliamentary meeting in Khartoum, admitted that mistakes were committed in Darfur which entail justice but pointed out that domestic justice should not be sabotaged.

UNSG and Sudan's presidential adviser discuss CPA and Darfur

Al-Sahafa reports Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salahu Al-Din and UNSG Ban Ki-moon discussed in NY the CPA and ongoing preparations for upcoming elections as well as the Darfur issue. Mr. Ki-moon has expressed satisfaction over decline of violence in Darfur and stressed the importance of making forthcoming Doha talks a success and also commended the level of cooperation between the Government of Sudan and UNAMID.

Darfur female refugees facing rape and violence in eastern Chad

Sudan Tribune website 30/9/09 — Sudanese female refugees who fled violence Darfur to eastern Chad camps are regularly raped and subjected to other violence, said a report released by Amnesty International on their miserable situation.

In a report to be released on Wednesday, 'No place for us here: Violence against refugee women in eastern Chad', Amnesty international says Darfur women and girls are facing daily violence sexual and other from villagers living nearby and Chadian army.

"The rape that countless women and girls experienced in Darfur continues to haunt them in eastern Chad," said Tawanda Hondora, Deputy Director of Amnesty International's Africa Programme.

"These women fled Darfur, hoping that the international community and Chadian authorities would offer them some measure of safety and protection. That protection has proved to be elusive and they remain under attack."

Amnesty says girls experience sexual harassment at the hands of their teachers at schools in the camps. Some girls have reportedly been threatened that they would receive poor marks if they refused to have sexual intercourse with their teacher.

Inside eastern Chad camps the women are also facing harassment and rape from family members, other refugees, and staff of humanitarian organizations, the group said.

Further the Chadian police force, which is in charge of security in and out the camps and supported by the UN mission MINURCAT, have become source of insecurity and violence against the Sudanese refugees.

Despite all these human rights violations Amnesty said "perpetrators of rape and other forms of violence against refugee women and girls in eastern Chad are very rarely brought to justice."

Amnesty International said that it is not possible to know the exact number of women and girls who have been victims of rape and other violence inside and outside refugee camps in eastern Chad, as women rarely report such crimes primarily because of fear of stigma, including from their own family members, and trauma.

A UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) has been deployed in eastern Chad since September 2007 with a mandate that includes contributing to the protection of the refugees.

Tension in Al-Daein as letters of threat exchanged

Al-Sahafa reports that unidentified groups in the South Darfur town of Al-Daiem yesterday circulated letters of threat, causing panic to the people. A statement attributed to the Rizzeigat tribe advised members of the Maaliya tribe to move out of Al-Daein town to “save their own lives”. The same group reportedly circulated another statement directly threatening five prominent Maaliya tribesmen residing in Al-Daein.

The Maaliya tribe called on the local government to impose the rule of law.

Memo to the Presidency on Human Rights Commission membership

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Civil Society Network coordinator Azhari Al-Haj as saying that intensive workshops would be held to speed up submission of a memorandum to the Presidency on the need for formation of the Human Rights Commission’s membership from the Network, the National Assembly and the Civil Society. He told the newspaper that the memo would be submitted to the Presidency early in October. “We are now preparing to hold a series of workshops to consult and agree on neutral personalities for the Commission’s membership especially that the Commission’s Formation Act provides for nomination of members who has no political party affiliations,” he said.

Conflict zones, Halaib Triangle remain obstacles to elections - NCP

The head of the NEC’s Department of Voter Registration and Geographic Constituencies Osman Haj Al-Zaki said he was worried that conflict areas, areas inhabited by nomads and the Halaib Triangle constitute obstacles to the upcoming electoral process, **Al-Ayyam** reports. Osman Haj Al-Zaki said that the NEC has received about 500 objections to the constituency demarcations. He pointed out that these objections would be tabled before the competent court and the court’s ruling on the issue would be final.

Unidentified group attack Al-Intibaha chief editor

A group of unidentified men have damaged the vehicle of **Al-Intibaha** chief editor Al-Sadiq Al-Rizzeigi in the early hours of yesterday morning in Khartoum. **Al-Intibaha** reports that the vehicle was damaged and that the assailants got off with two memory sticks and some other items from the vehicle. Reportedly, theft was not the motive of the attackers.

Khartoum State allocates SDG75, 000 for indecent dress awareness

Sudan Vision reports Non-Muslims Commission in the National Capital revealed coordination between the Commission and Khartoum State authorities in implementing several projects in Khartoum State.

Commission Chairman, Joshua Diu Dau said that Khartoum State Governor funded SDG75000 to conduct awareness campaigns against the scandalous costume for women which the non-Muslims consider it a normal dress in Khartoum State.

He added that Khartoum State and the Swiss government agreed to finance 7 workshops in Khartoum State localities aiming at citizens’ awareness in this regard. On his part, Non-Muslims Commission Information Secretary, Mohammed Al-Umda said that the Commission would inaugurate today the training project for Omdurman prison inmates which were executed by the commission, Zakat Chamber, and National Council for Vocational Training.

He affirmed that the Commission agreed to hold 7 workshops aiming at making unity attractive.