

8 Oct 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- “Arms in the South coming from the North – Kiir” (***Al-Watan***)
- Crisis within SPLA over demobilization (***Al-Intibaha***)
- Suspected Ebola outbreak kills 23 in south Sudan-army (***Reuters***)
- Inter-ethnic violence in southern Sudan threatens return of displaced – UN (***UN News***)
- Sudan to vaccinate 8.5 millions after polio outbreak (***Reuters***)
- Kiir and Minnawi discuss elections and referendum (***Al-Sudani***)
- SAF repulse attack by rebels in South Darfur (***Dailies***)
- Moscow’s symposium on Darfur concludes session (***Dailies***)
- "All countries except Israel" stamp removed from Sudan’s passport (***Al-Watan***)
- Deportation of 260 Sudanese nationals from Lebanon (***SUNA***)

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

“Arms in the South coming from the North – Kiir”

Al-Watan reports FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit has told the BBC that the arms being used in ongoing tribal conflict in the South are coming from the North. He said that arms, ranging from rifles to tanks, are manufactured in the North.

However, an anonymous source reacted to Kiir’s statement saying the South’s neighbourhood has a larger and the most dangerous arms trade.

In a related development, **Al-Khartoum** reports Kiir has accused the northerners and the NCP of failure to make unity attractive. Kiir, who was speaking in an interview to the paper, said he was for unity but warned that the ongoing practices might force southerners to vote for separation. With regard to the ongoing controversy over Higlig and Abyei boundary demarcation, he said the Higlig area is a southern territory, adding the Abyei boundary demarcation has ceased due to the Misseriya’s attacks. The paper also reported that the Misseriya general conference held in Seteit has concluded with the Misseriya confirming their rejection of the PCA Award on Abyei. Participants said they recognize the 1956 boundaries of the Abyei Area as stipulated in the CPA. They also said that they could hold a reconciliation conference with the Dinka-Ngok if the latter disregard the PCA ruling. The Misseriya have also rejected the mediation attempts based on the Abyei Road Map that they described as unjust. Participants at the Misseriya conference also warned that the NCP and the SPLM are to blame for any harm that may befall the area in the wake of the PCA award.

Al-Akhbar reports Egyptian Intelligence Adviser Maj. Gen. Hatim Bashat as saying that President Mubarak has invited Kiir to visit Cairo by the end of October for consultations on a range of issues.

Sudan Tribune website 7/10/09 reported At least 42 people are killed, 70 others injured following nearly a week-long fighting between Mundari and Bor youth, officials figures indicate. 8,000 internal displaced persons (IDPs) are at the augury of starvation in Terekeke, Pariak and Bor Counties respectively that they are in dire need for humanitarian assistance.

7,000 Mundari children and women are assembled in Terkeke town, the headquarters of Terkeke County Central Equatoria state (CES), Commissioner Juma Ali Malou told the Sudan Tribune by phone on Wednesday.

Mr. Malou also named 16 villages burnt at the eastern bank of River Nile and along Juba – Bor road. Earlier unsubstantiated reports estimated devastated villages at 21.

Of the dead 5 are SPLA soldiers, 16 on Bor’s side and 21 die from Mundaris’, officials says. 9 soldiers, 21 from Bor youths and 48 others from Mundari’s, officials say.

Crisis within SPLA over demobilization

GoSS has dispatched a second committee to Bentiu headed by Defence Minister Gen. Nhial Deng in a bid to calm the situation and to investigate the recent incidents between the SPLA and Paulino Matip, **Al-Intibaha** reports. Bentiu residents have fled the town, forcing the state Government to seal routes lest more civilians should flee.

Meanwhile, GoSS has begun demobilizing the SPLA-aligned factions, but source say such a step could lead to an explosion within the SPLA ranks.

Suspected Ebola outbreak kills 23 in south Sudan-army

Reuters 7/10/09 - A mysterious hemorrhagic disease suspected to be Ebola has killed at least 23 people and infected dozens more in Sudan's under-developed south, a southern Sudanese army official said on Wednesday.

Kuol Diem Kuol, spokesman for the south Sudan army (SPLA) said blood samples had been sent to laboratories for testing but that doctors suspected it was Ebola.

"So far from the SPLA there are 20 killed and three wives (of soldiers) also died," he told **Reuters**.

A U.N. official in the south said they had attempted an assessment but needed more information from local Government to be able to assess the situation.

Kuol said symptoms included vomiting blood and bleeding from the ears and nose, adding it was very widespread in the Western Bahr al-Ghazal state.

Inter-ethnic violence in southern Sudan threatens return of displaced – UN

UN News 7/10/09 - Significant challenges remain to the return of displaced people in southern Sudan following the 2005 peace accord between the Government and separatists, particularly this year's inter-ethnic violence, a senior United Nations refugee official warned today.

"Long-term stability is essential for sustainable return, along with access to such essentials as health services, education and jobs," UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative Peter de Clercq told a news conference in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

"Potentially, if you are looking very much at the implementation of the CPA which is extremely important for the overall peace process in the country, yes, we could characterize this as serious," he said, referring to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending the two-decades-long north-south civil war that killed at least 2 million people.

But he voiced pride in UNHCR's contribution to the successful return so far of nearly 2.5 million displaced persons, including 328,000 refugees from outside Sudan's border, out of an estimated 4.5 million driven from their homes by the war, while acknowledging that violent inter-ethnic clashes throughout this year have caused new displacements.

"This situation could take a much more permanent character so we really take it seriously," Mr. de Clercq said.

He also noted other concerns in Sudan, including the east, where the flow of refugees from neighbouring countries, overwhelmingly Eritrea but also Ethiopia and Somalia, continues at an annual rate of 1,800 a month, and the strife-torn Darfur region where, despite a reduction in open armed conflict, 2.7 million people remain displaced, still vulnerable to isolated attacks and banditry.

Moreover, continuing attacks by the rebel Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have driven 18,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) into Sudan, where they are seeking shelter along with some 68,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

According to SUNA 7/10/09, de Clercq has said the level of armed violence in Darfur has decreased and welcomed the development in Darfur that saw a drop in the armed

confrontations in the region and that they would be working for this positive trend to continue. He stressed the commission was ready to work for the creation of the conducive climate that would lead to reaching permanent solutions there.

Sudan to vaccinate 8.5 millions after polio outbreak

Reuters 8/10/09 - Sudan will begin to vaccinate 8.5 million children against polio this month after 45 cases of the disease were reported, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Sudan was polio free until 2004 and is considered a high risk for spreading the virus internationally as it borders nine countries, according to the WHO.

"(We have) 40 cases in south Sudan and five reported in February and March in south Sudan," acting WHO representative Salah Haithami told **Reuters**.

He said the outbreak was under control and that U.N. agencies and the Government would begin to vaccinate on Oct. 27.

Kiir and Minnawi discuss elections and referendum

Al-Sudani reports FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and Senior Presidential Assistant Minni Minnawi yesterday discussed in Juba a range of issues including elections, referendum for southern Sudan and Darfur crisis. Minnawi told reporters after the meeting that they came up with proposals that would contribute toward stability of the situation in the country.

SAF repulse attack by rebels in South Darfur

Local dailies report the Sudanese army yesterday repulsed an attack by Darfur rebels on Dafag area in southwest of Darfur. According to **Al-Wifaq**, SAF inflicted heavy losses on Abdul Shafie's faction which mounted the attack.

Moscow's symposium on Darfur concludes session

Local dailies report the symposium on Darfur in Moscow concluded its sessions. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din said the aim of the symposium was to exchange ideas and make proposals not to take decisions. Ghazi appraised the wide participation in the conference, saying the focus of the symposium was on elections, referendum, unity of the Sudan and Sudan-Chad relations.

"All countries except Israel" stamp removed from Sudan electronic passport

Al-Watan 7/10/09 - As it watches the evolution of the electronic passport system for Sudanese citizens, Al-Watan has observed that the stamp that bears the sentence "all countries except Israel", which used to appear in a conspicuous spot in all old passports, has been removed. It is not known whether the removal of this sentence is due to a political reason related to the end of the Arab League's boycott of Israel, whose office used to be based in Syria, or the matter has to do with the improvement of relations with the USA and the West, as they kept exerting pressure to end all forms of boycott and encourage normalization of ties with Israel.

Deportation of 260 Sudanese nationals from Lebanon

SUNA 7/10/09 – In coordination with Sudanese airways, authorities will deport 260 Sudanese nationals who had been in Lebanese prisons. The representative of the Sudanese Expatriates Organ, Al-Amin Taha Al Grain has pointed out in a statement to the Sudan News Agency that the deportation programme would be carried out in coordination between the Sudan embassy in Beirut and the relevant authorities at the Expatriates Organ and the concerned Sudanese security authorities. He said the same return programme is being carried out in other countries,

citing the return of 2871 Sudanese subjects from Libya within the voluntary return programme carried out there

