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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Qazi says warned of serious consequences if warrant of arrest is issued for Bashir (dailies)
- President Bashir says ICC instrument of imperialist forces (SUNA)
- Constitutional court dismisses appeal against counter terror courts (Al-Intibaha)
- SPLA accused of attacking civilians in Rumbek (Al-Intibaha)
- 350 merchants in Wau join SPLM (Ray Al-Shaab)
- UN refugee agency seeks funding to help refugees return to South Sudan (The Citizen)
- Mission of human rights experts in Sudan ended (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
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- SPLM determined to invite Darfur factions to meet in Juba (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

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- Defiant Bashir rejects Darfur genocide charges (Reuters)
- Sudan president tells African leaders ICC will be used against them (ST)
- Sudan accuses Islamist leader of working with US, UK to oust Bashir (ST)
- Sudan opposition leader calls on Bashir to come right with his people (ST)
- Salva Kiir reiterates determination to fight corruption (Miraya FM)

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

UN will not be allowed to become a cat claw – Government

Qazi says warned of serious consequences if warrant of arrest is issued for Bashir

Al-Ahdath reported that the Sudan Government warned against use of UN presence in Sudan as a “cat claw” to implement foreign agenda, saying precautionary measures were taken for countering cunning methods and rejected SRSG’s reference to peace in southern Sudan as fragile.

“It is not true that peace in southern Sudan is fragile,” Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq reacts to SRSG Ashraf Qazi’s report to the SC. “a large percentage of the CPA is implemented which confirms the two partners continue showing the required political will to remove any misunderstanding and address slow implementation of agreements,” he said. “As Qazi has said if warrant of arrest is issued for Bashir, we can not predict reactions,” he added. He said such step {arrest warrant} would have negative impact on presence of UN in Sudan. However, he has reiterated Sudan government’s commitment to implementation of international agreements. “At the same time we will be prepared for any cunning or shrewd move to exploit UN presence in the country as a cat claw to advance foreign agenda,” he said.

“If warrant of arrest is issued for Bashir, we do not expect these Missions to continue enjoying the same status as before,” says Ali Al-Sadiq, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson’s reaction to SRSG report to SC is covered by Al-Ahdath, Al-Ray Al-Aam, Akhbar Al-Yom and Ray Al-Shaab daily Arabic newspapers. Qazi’s statement to the Security Council has also received wide factual coverage by the local dailies of today. The Citizen newspaper of today published almost full text of the statement.

President Bashir describes ICC as instrument of imperialist forces

State-owned Sudan News Agency (**SUNA**) reported that President Bashir has called on the African leaders to cooperate and unite to abort the plots being hatched by colonialist forces against African countries and the Third World. In his address at the opening session of the Turkish - African Summit in Istanbul, Turkey Tuesday, with participation of representatives of 50 countries, President Al-Bashir lauded the strong solidarity shown in support for Sudan after the crisis ignited by the ICC, referring to the decisions of the African Union in Sharm Al-Sheikh, Egypt, in last July on the abuse of some foreign countries of judicial mandate for political objectives against African leaders, which is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of these countries and unity of their territories. President Bashir has attacked the International Criminal Court (ICC), describing it as a tool of the imperialist forces to terrorize countries and nations and to compel them to succumb to the will of these imperialist forces which aim at imposing their domination on Africa and to loot its wealth.

He said that the African - Turkish cooperation in the economic and social fields represents the foundation for success of this partnership, and called for paving the way for the flow of funding and trade, focusing on the important projects toward development of the local resources,

providing employment opportunities for African labour and diversifying the African exports. He said that international cooperation should be based on the respect for the sovereignty, security, stability and dignity of nations.

Constitutional court dismisses appeal against counter terror courts

Al-Intibaha stated that the Constitutional court dismissed the appeal by some lawyers challenging the legality of the counter terrorism court set up to try persons accused of participation in the attack on Omdurman last May.

A source told the newspaper that the trials of the counter terrorism courts were based on legal foundations and consistent with the constitution that is why the appeal was dismissed.

SPLA accused of attacking civilians in Rumbek

Al-Intibaha reported that the chairman of GoSS Legislative Assembly's Security Committee Daniel Deng accused some soldiers of attacking unarmed civilians in Rumbek, the capital of Lakes State before curfew was clamped in the area.

He told Miraya FM that the attack was unacceptable and urged local authorities to conduct investigation and address tribal differences in the area.

350 merchants in Wau join SPLM

Ray Al-Shaab reported that 350 merchants in West Bahr el Ghazal State joined the SPLM yesterday. Their accession was celebrated by SPLM in Wau and was attended by SPLM deputy chairman in the State Col. Antony Joseph.

SPLM spokesperson in the State said 200 out of 350 merchants are northerners. She said the traders were convinced of SPLM manifesto so they decided to join.

UN refugee agency seeks funding to help refugees return to South Sudan

The Citizen carried a report saying that the UNHCR today launched an appeal for 11.9% millions to help assist the return of refugees, mainly from camps in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, to South Sudan.

"If the current return trend is anything to go by, we could complete repatriation to southern Sudan by the end of 2009 or the first quarter of 2010 provided we get funding on time for the rest of this year and next," said Mengesha Kebede, Deputy Director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Africa bureau, in statement released yesterday.

Earlier this year the agency appealed for 63% millions to support the refugee return programme, but it remains short of funds.

As general elections approach in 2009, the repatriation momentum is expected to continue. Already some 30000 South Sudan refugees have requested UNHCR assistance to repatriate during this year's dry season.

Darfur rebel factions urged to respond to the People of Sudan's initiative

Sudan Vision stated that the Governor of North Darfur, Mohammad Yousif Kibir, has renewed readiness of his government to negotiate with Darfur rebels at the time and place convenient to them to reach a political solution for the crisis of the region.

Kibir urges the armed movements not to put pre-conditions and to respond to the voice of the

majority of the people of Darfur seeking peace.

Addressing the African Forum at the African Researches and Studies Institute in the University of Cairo, the governor warned against internationalization of Darfur issue, assuring improvement of security and humanitarian conditions in the three states of Darfur.

He urged the donors to rapidly meet their obligations, as part of the solution of the issue of Darfur, and to support UNAMID to assume its responsibility.

The governor discussed the initiative of the people of Darfur to solve the issue of their region, pointing out that it excludes no political power, hoping that armed movements would respond to it.

Mission of human rights experts in Sudan wrapped up

Al-Rai Al-Aam said that UNHRC decided yesterday to end mission of human rights experts in Sudan. The Committee also postponed consideration of extension or termination of Sima Samar's mandate to forthcoming meeting in September.

SPLM determined to invite Darfur factions to meet in Juba

Al-Rai Al-Aam learned that SPLM was determined to host a meeting of Darfur movements in Juba next month as part of its efforts to unify the factions. Sources confirmed to Al-Rai Al-Aam yesterday the participation of JEM but did not confirm participation of Abdul Wahid.

Websites/International Headlines

Defiant Bashir rejects Darfur genocide charges

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, on his first trip abroad since the International Criminal Court moved to indict him for war crimes, on Tuesday denied that his forces had committed genocide in Darfur.

Bashir, who has defied the ICC and calls the court's move part of a neo-colonialist agenda to protect the interests of developed countries, said that his government forces were not responsible for crimes in Darfur.

"We are not committing genocide in Darfur," Bashir told Turkish President Abdullah Gul during a meeting in Istanbul, according to a Turkish official close to the talks.

"We are saddened by the events there," Bashir was quoted as saying.

The two men, who met for 30 minutes in an Ottoman-era palace by the Bosphorus strait on the sidelines of a Turkey-Africa economic summit, did not discuss the ICC or the case against Bashir. Bashir does not accept the legitimacy of the court.

NATO member Turkey has not ratified the treaty forming the ICC but is under pressure to become a member as part of negotiations to join the European Union.

ICC judges could take weeks or months to issue a warrant, but have never failed to issue one after a prosecutor's request.

Sudan has warned the United Nations of "serious consequences" for its staff and facilities if an arrest warrant is issued, a U.N. envoy told the Security Council on Monday.

Sudan accuses Islamist leader of working with US, UK to oust Bashir

(Sudan Tribune) – The Sudanese ruling party accused an Islamist opposition leader of collaborating with the US and UK to overthrow President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

The National Congress Party (NCP)'s official newspaper Al-Rae'd launched an unprecedented attack on the leader of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) Hassan Al-Turabi ahead of his visit to Europe.

"Al-Turabi is directly or indirectly executing a US plan through the Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)" the newspaper said.

Al-Turabi traveled to Geneva yesterday to take part in a forum at the Africa Center for Human Rights. A PCP official told the daily Al-Hayat newspaper that the Islamist leader may also visit Germany.

Al-Mahboob Abd Al-Salam, a leading figure at the PCP, denied any "hidden agenda" behind Al-Turabi's tour in Europe.

Al-Turabi, a former ally of President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, was the government's ideological mastermind in the 1990s and the De-facto ruler.

However Al-Bashir and Al-Turabi split ranks in 1999 and the latter was jailed on accusations of conspiracy. He was released in October 2003.

The opposition leader was jailed again for more than a year in 2004 over accusations of connections with an alleged coup plot before being released in 2005.

Al-Rae'd newspaper alleged that Al-Turabi met in Uganda with the former US National Security adviser Robert McFarlane and another British figure described as an intelligence officer by the name of James Henry.

The NCP publication further said that Al-Turabi will continue these meetings in Europe "to coordinate support for Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)'s chairman in the presidential elections".

The SPLM announced last month that the SPLM chairman Salva Kiir would run for presidency in the upcoming 2009 elections.

Kiir candidacy comes amidst a row between Khartoum and the International Criminal Court (ICC) whose prosecutor is seeking an arrest warrant for Al-Bashir.

The timing of the SPLM's announcement appeared to have worried NCP officials who hinted that it was linked to Al-Bashir's indictment.

"We cannot read the announcement by the SPLM to nominate Kiir for presidential elections separate from these developments [ICC indictment]" Sudan's presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen told the pro-government Al-Intibaha last week.

Many observers in Sudan have said that Khartoum believes that the ICC indictment is a bid to remove the NCP from power.

Sudan opposition leader calls on Bashir to come right with his people

(Sudan Tribune) – A Sudanese opposition leader urged President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to “reconcile with his people” in order to deflect a possible arrest warrant for him by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“It is high time that the National Congress Party (NCP) relinquishes its monopoly of power and work toward building a consensus in order to manage the crisis in the country” Mubarak Al-Fadil leader of Umma Reform and Renewal party told Sudan Tribune by phone from Juba.

Al-Fadil also dismissed an initiative known as ‘People of Sudan’ that was launched by Al-Bashir during his tour of Darfur in July.

The Sudanese head of state invited all political forces and the Darfuri figures, including the non-signatories rebels, to take part in it.

But Al-Fadil voiced skepticism about Khartoum’s commitment to negotiating a peaceful settlement in Darfur.

“The format of this new initiative is similar to what we have seen in the past. There is much media coverage without a political will on the part of the NCP or real solutions on the table” Al-Fadil said.

“In 2004 Al-Bashir formed a committee headed by Izz Al-Deen Al-Sayed to propose solutions for the Darfur conflict and it incorporated a number of political parties. By the time the committee was disbanded there were over 1,000 figures members in it” he added.

“No one will take the local courts seriously in its current form. The judiciary is heavily influenced by the government. Figures chosen for Darfur special courts should be the ones who were removed from office who are very qualified to handle these kinds of cases” the opposition leader said.

“We are now witnessing trials for Justice and Equality (JEM) members. The defense lawyers filed an appeal with the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of these antiterrorism courts. The judge was supposed to suspend trials until the Supreme Court makes a ruling. He overruled the law. They did the same thing with me last year in the alleged coup attempt. I was detained for 5 months without charges when the law says they can’t keep beyond 18 days” he added.

TAI-Fadil proposed creating a national unity government that brings other political powers into the decision making process.

“The NCP’s share in the government per the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) needs to be allocated among other political parties not simply in terms of percentages but empowering them to deal with Sudan’s problems collectively with the ruling party” he said.

“Even though there is a government of national unity, the NCP is ignoring the SPLM when it makes decisions. Because of this you effectively have two governments. We need a

government that would prepare the country for elections and work on resolving the Darfur crisis" Al-Fadil added.

The former Sudanese official stressed that the NCP is a part of the problem in Darfur and therefore has to let other political forces broker a settlement.

"You cannot have a committee on Darfur headed by Al-Bashir coming up with recommendations and then send them to the NCP dominated government. Whoever created the problem cannot be the one coming up with the solution. This doesn't make any sense" he said.

Al-Fadil was appointed as presidential adviser for economic affairs in 2002 before getting sacked by Al-Bashir two years later after receiving an invitation to visit the US as head of the Umma Reform and Renewal party.

The invitation angered the Sudanese president who saw a pattern of him acting in his own capacity without consultation.

The opposition leader has been critical of the Sudanese government particularly in dealing with the conflict in the war ravaged region of Darfur. He was arrested last year for his role in an alleged coup attempt before being released five months later for lack of evidence.

Salva Kiir reiterates determination to fight corruption

(Miraya FM) The First vice president, president of GoSS, Salva Kiir Mayardit reiterated his position to fight corruption. Al-Ray Al-Aam Arabic news paper reported that Salva Kiir said during the opening ceremony of veteran's commission in Juba yesterday that he would fight corruptors, pointing out that some people still get double salaries, and promised to expose and hold them accountable.

In another development, the United Democratic Front, UDF, party is advocating for the independence of southern Sudan through the upcoming 2009 elections.

Speaking during the commemoration of "Torit Revolution Day" in Juba on Monday, the UDF youth branch chairperson, Miss Flora Francis Wajo said political parties that are advocating for independence of southern Sudan "should be given opportunity to express themselves" in order to influence the public prior to the elections.

She said that the UDF is urging President Salva Kiir Mayardit to come out with a clear position regarding the independence of southern Sudan.

President Kiir was in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State officiating at the "Torit Revolution Day".

Links

There is no place for impunity today. [Op-Ed]. By Dan Ngabirano. *The New Vision (Uganda)*.18/08/2008. (Noon).
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-08-19GVEL-7HNNFJ>

Bashir's accusation has forced Sudan to be responsive. [Commentary]. By Hussein Solomon. *The Daily Star (Beirut)*.19/08/2008. (Noon).
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-08-19GVEL-7HNKUH>