

28 August 2008

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

Local News Headlines

- UN investigates incident of a British vehicle that runs over Sudanese nationals (local dailies)
- Crush and drink juice of Ocampo's warrant – Bashir (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Ameera Haq in Nyala, UN buries the dead and evacuates the wounded from Kalma (Ajrass Al-Huriaya)
- 300 persons killed in fighting between SPLA and civilians in Jonglei (Al-Intibaha)
- Over 1500 children will march to UN HQs in Khartoum to protest ICC (Al-Watan)

Websites/International Headlines

- Sudanese plane hijackers surrender in Libya (Reuters)
- Government signs five contracts to build South Sudan dams (ST)
- Sudan president and Southern official involved in a verbal clash (ST)
- Sudan censors remarks by FM Alor criticizing Darfur camp attack (ST)
- 30 displaced were shot dead by the Sudanese troops in Kalma - UNAMID (ST)
- Sudan's senior presidential assistant condemns deadly Darfur camp attack (ST)
- Sudanese hijackers have no connection with Darfur rebels – Sun Air (ST)

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

Local Arabic and English language press

UN investigates incident of a British vehicle that runs over Sudanese nationals

Local dailies of today reported that A British Embassy vehicle ran over two Sudanese nationals yesterday. The two nationals are working with UNMIS as security guards. The victims received treatment at UNMIS clinic and then transferred to the Faisal Hospital in Khartoum for further medical checks.

SRSG Qazi said concerned over the incident. UNMIS statement said the Mission began investigation.

The National Staff Association (NSA) condemned the incident and described SRSG Qazi attitude as disappointing. NSA statement said the vehicle was carrying explosives.

British Embassy said the incident was minor; it would not affect relations between UK and UN or with Sudan.

UNMIS national employees who were offended by the incident, gathered at a gate to protest it.

The two assaulted Sudanese nationals filed criminal case with the police in Arkawit against the two British Embassy employees Frank N. Robinson and Benjamin Daniel.

The incident is reported by eight daily Arabic newspapers and one English newspaper under various headings: British Embassy guard ran over Sudanese nationals; Guards of British Ambassador assaulted two Sudanese nationals working in UNMIS as security guards, their vehicle carrying ammunition and grenade; UN investigates incident of a British vehicle that runs over Sudanese nationals; two British driving land cruiser assaulted two Sudanese nationals working in UNMIS; UN to sue a western Embassy; British Embassy vehicle hit two UNMIS Sudanese security guards; a British Embassy car hit two Sudanese nationals, UN and British Embassy to investigate accident in UN compound.

Crush and drink juice of Ocampo's warrant – Bashir

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that President Bashir lashed out against ICC saying it is “a zero on the left of a digit,” He said ICC was a colonial instrument and reiterated rejection to deal with the court. “Let them crush ICC decision and drink its juice,” Bashir declared at press conference in Juba yesterday. The President has also criticized donors for lack of honouring their pledges.

Ameera Haq in Nyala, UN buries the dead and evacuates the wounded from Kalma

Ajras Al-Huriya stated that DSRSG and HC Ameera Haq visited Nyala hospital yesterday to meet with the persons wounded in Kalma incidents.

UNAMID spokesperson Nouredine Mezni said peacekeepers helped camp residents to bury 31 bodies. UNAMID troops in collaboration with Cipol and Dutch MSF evacuated 47 injured persons mostly women and children from Kalma camp to Nyala hospital.

300 persons killed in fighting between SPLA and civilians in Jonglei

Al-Intibaha carried a report stating that fierce fighting erupted in Jonglei State between Lanuer tribes and SPLA in which over 230 persons have been killed from the two tribes and 60 on SPLA side.

The fighting was triggered by cattle theft three days ago and continued until yesterday. The cattle belong to the Lanuer tribes stolen by the Dinka.

Over 1500 children will march to UN HQs to protest ICC

Al-Watan reported that over 1500 children, 9-10 years old, will march from Kuber area today to UN head office in Khartoum to hand over memo to denounce the ICC and support the President.

Websites/International News Coverage

Sudanese plane hijackers surrender in Libya

(Reuters) - The hijackers of a Sudanese airliner surrendered to authorities in Libya on Wednesday after releasing all the passengers, Libya's aviation authority said.

The airliner, with 95 people on board, was seized on Tuesday after leaving Sudan's war-torn Darfur region for Khartoum. It was forced to land at the remote Sahara desert oasis of Kufrah in southeastern Libya. The identity of the two hijackers and their motive for seizing the Boeing 737/200 was unclear.

The hijackers first released the passengers and two crew members, but kept six crew hostage while negotiations continued. "The two hijackers were transported to one of the halls at Kufrah airport after giving themselves up," Libyan state news agency Jana quoted aviation authority head Mohamed Shlibek as saying.

Sudan's Civil Aviation Authority said Libyan authorities had arrested two Sudanese men, but it was not known why they seized the plane. "That is now under investigation. All they have said is that they wanted to claim refugee status in Paris," Abdel Hafiz Abdel Rahim said.

The pilot told Libyan officials earlier that the hijackers were from a branch of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), a Darfur rebel group.

He said they wanted the plane to be refueled so they could fly on to meet their leader Abdel Wahed Mohammed al-Nur in the French capital, Jana reported.

But Nur's faction strongly denied the hijackers were its members. Another SLM faction that signed a 2006 deal with Khartoum, which was rejected by Nur, said the passengers on the hijacked plane had included seven of its officers, three of them members of a transitional Darfur regional government.

"Last night we felt terrorized," Mohamed al-Tijani Tayeb, one of the SLM transitional government members, told Libyan state TV, expressing relief at being free.

"We thank the Libyan authorities for this, the result of their peaceful dialogue."

All the passengers were Sudanese except two Egyptian police officers, two Ethiopians and one Ugandan.

Libyan TV said the authorities gave medical treatment to some of the freed passengers who fainted in the plane after its air conditioning stopped working.

Government signs fives contracts to build South Sudan dams

(Sudan Tribune) — Sudan signed yesterday in Juba five contracts for scientific and feasibility studies for construction and rehabilitation four dams in south Sudan that will cost 38 million USD. It represents the preparatory phase of the implementation of the projects.

President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, and the First Vice-President and President of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayadrit attended the signing ceremony.

The contracts were signed by the Executive Director of the Dams Implementation Unit (DIU), Ussama Abdalla and different representatives of the implementing companies.

The five signed contracts were on aerial photography, survey linkage, studies and designing on three medium size dams, maintenance and re-operation of Maridi Dam and Water Station, studying and formulation of a tender book on major dams, in addition to observing the implementation of projects by the Towns Water Authority.

The new three dams would be constructed in Wau of Western Bahr El Ghazal state, Juba of Western Equatoria state, and Torit of East Equatoria state.

The three new dams are dedicated to fulfill southern Sudan needs in electricity and clean water; while the Maridi dam rehabilitation project limited to supply water and irrigate the agriculture in the region.

DIU Director pointed out that such a big development projects will transfer south Sudan into a world food basket.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Engineer Kamal Ali Mohamed, said that the implementation of the signed contracts will contribute to production of water electricity power of great economic outcome as well as enhancing the work at the agricultural, industrial and other fields.

Southern Sudan government minister of energy and mining John Luke said dams' projects will attract investors. He further said that construction of dams, which is expected to be finalized after four (4) years, will cost in total estimated five billion US dollars.

The projects will be financed by the federal government.

The Minister of Irrigation in the Government of South Sudan, Joseph Doweir, said that the signing of contracts for establishment of dams represented the real start for realizing development in south Sudan.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Joseph Okello, said that the implementation of such projects will strengthen ties between the people of the one nation and enhance the standard of living for the citizens of south Sudan.

Sudan president and Southern official involved in a verbal clash

(Sudan Tribune) – The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and the Speaker of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani exchanged accusations over role of the central government in the development of the South and other issues.

Al-Bashir arrived in Juba yesterday for a signing ceremony for the construction and rehabilitation of four dams in south Sudan that will cost \$38 million.

Wani accused Khartoum of neglecting the South in terms of economic development and called on the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to pay Abyei residents oil revenue in arrears.

The Southern official also urged speedy demarcation for the North-South borders that were hindered by dispute over the oil rich region of Abyei.

But the Sudanese president responded by pointing fingers at the semi-autonomous Southern officials saying that they are responsible for “lack of services”.

Al-Bashir also hinted at corruption in Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) by saying that “tax and customs revenue in the last three years exceed that of oil”.

He further said that “most SPLM leaders that accuse the central government of negligence received their education in the North till PhD level”.

“Now they come out to complain about neglect and injustice” Al-Bashir added. The Sudanese head of state also said that border dispute between the North and the South will be resolved in the coming months. He also promised back pay of oil revenue in Abyei.

Sudan censors remarks by FM Alor criticizing Darfur camp attack

(Sudan Tribune) – Sudanese security blocked publication of a news article quoting foreign minister Deng Alor criticizing Monday’s raid by soldiers and security officers on Kalma refugee camp in South Darfur that killed at least 30 people and injured many more.

Sudanese journalists told Sudan Tribune that security services have started stepping up censorship of newspapers following a Chadian rebels attack on Ndjamena, believed to be backed by Khartoum, and tightened it further after International Criminal Court (ICC) indicted president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

Alor spoke to reporters after his first meeting with Joint United Nations and African Union mediator for Darfur, Djibril Bassole.

“The Kalma camp events will drown the country into unnecessary problems” Alor was quoted by the daily independent Al-Ahdath reporter as saying. The news piece that contained Alor’s statements was not cleared for publication by Sudanese security.

“We are in no need of new accusations by the international community at this time and we are not in a position to enter into internal problems more than what we already have” the Sudanese foreign minister said. “We need a consensus to solve our problems” he added.

Alor, who is also a key figure in the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), said that he intends to meet with senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi who left Khartoum for Darfur angrily a few months ago and accused Khartoum of not honoring the peace agreements.

The Sudanese foreign minister has angered the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in the past by his statements that were considered a deviation from the official government line.

In June Alor called on the government to comply with the UN Security Council resolution on the

International Criminal Court (ICC).

"I am not talking as a minister of foreign affairs. In this particular issue I'm speaking as SPLM and SPLM calls for cooperation. That's what I said in my briefing with the ambassadors" Alor told reporters on the sidelines of a visit by the UNSC delegation to Khartoum.

The ICC's prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced in mid-July that he requested an arrest warrant against Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

Ocampo filed 10 charges: three counts of genocide, five of crimes against humanity and two of murder. Judges are expected to take months to study the evidence before deciding whether to order Al-Bashir's arrest.

Alor has conveyed a French proposal for Khartoum to resolve the ICC row that was ultimately rejected despite on the government to accept them.

"In my assessment, these proposals are good" he said. Alor also pointed out that to end the crisis; the government needs to provide certain things.

The NCP sits in an uneasy coalition with the south's SPLM forged in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 ended two decades of war.

Al-Bashir has been reluctant to endorse Alor's appointment as a foreign minister but bent down to pressure by the SPLM.

30 displaced were shot dead by the Sudanese troops in Kalma - UNAMID

(Sudan Tribune) – Darfur hybrid peacekeeping mission announced today that 30 people were shot dead by the Sudanese forces two days ago during their attempt to forcibly enter Kalma camp.

On Monday August 25, Sudanese troops clashed with the displaced population inside IDPs camp in the troubled Darfur. The armed forces killed dozens of people.

The UNAMID condemned the excessive and disproportionate use of force against civilians; it also said this attack came "in contravention of the Darfur Peace Agreement and International Humanitarian Law."

The joint peacekeeping mission said today it had obtained concrete evidence of the death of a total of 31 IDPs during last Monday attack. "30 of the victims were killed by gunshots while a woman fell to her death in a ditch, while attempting to flee the shooting," noticed a statement issued by the UNAMID today.

Among the killed displaced there were "7 children, 10 women, and 13 men, aged 11 to 60" the hybrid mission said.

The publication of these figures comes as result of investigations conducted by an assessment team sent to Kalma today to further gather information of what happened at the camp. The team, composed of military and humanitarian personnel, presented their condolences to the affected families.

Further, following a request for a meeting with the investigation mission presented by the local chiefs in the camp, Rodolphe Adada, the head of the hybrid mission directed that a high-level delegation engages today in a series of meetings with the IDPs.

"Another UNAMID assessment mission to the camp has been scheduled to rebuild confidence among the IDPs of Kalma."

The Sudanese authorities justified the raid on Kalma camp by claiming to have received reliable intel about weapons smuggled recently into the camp which is at a strategic position because of its proximity to the Nyala airport and railways.

However camp leaders who spoke to Sudan Tribune firmly denied the presence of any weapons. They accuse Khartoum of planning to dismantle the largest IDPs camp in Darfur.

Sudan's senior presidential assistant condemns deadly Darfur camp attack

(Sudan Tribune) – Sudan's senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi condemned Monday's raid by Sudanese soldiers and security officers on a refugee camp that killed at least 30 people and injured many more.

"I strongly condemn this act of violence. This is a big and serious violation of international laws and peace agreements signed" Minnawi told Sudan Tribune by satellite phone from North Darfur.

The former rebel leader also warned of further escalation in violence as a result of the violent incident.

"The situation may well develop into another war. The silence of the international community is a negative signal" he said.

The Sudanese authorities justified the raid by claiming to have received reliable intel about weapons smuggled recently into Kalma camp which is at a strategic position because of its proximity to the Nyala airport and railways.

But Minnawi dismissed the government's claims.

"I don't think this is true. These are civilian camps. The people who were killed are civilians; innocent children, women and elders. Clearly they cannot be fighters" the senior presidential assistant said.

Asked about whether he had exact figures for the number of deaths Minnawi said that he doesn't have any so far and accused Khartoum of trying to cover up the aftermath of the assault.

"The government blocked humanitarian access because they want to hide what they have done" he said.

Yesterday the United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) issued a strongly worded statement condemning the "excessive force" used by Sudanese authorities against residents of the camp.

UNAMID also said that the Sudanese authorities slowed down their access as well as their accompanying medical teams.

Minnawi however criticized the UNAMID forces and described their role as "absent".

"They [UNAMID] have to protect the civilians" he said.

Minnawi left the Sudanese capital 4 months ago and informally suspended his participation in the government leading to speculations that he defected from the government of national unity.

It was reported at the time that he arrived in the Chadian capital and met with President Idriss Debi. However the former rebel leader firmly denied these reports.

Minnawi stressed to Sudan Tribune that he has no intention of returning “until there is good will from NCP [National Congress Party]”.

He further said that talks between him and Khartoum to resolve outstanding issues are far from complete.

Minnawi also downplayed the ‘People of Sudan’ initiative launched by President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir during his tour of Darfur last month.

“The principle is not bad but other political parties must take the lead on it. The NCP cannot be in charge of it” he stressed.

Asked about his membership in the “crisis committee” established by Al-Bashir to deal with the developments related to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Minnawi said that he will part of it but emphasized that this is a “legal issue”.

“Generally speaking it is a legal issue. But lack of progress on the ground and implementation of DPA makes things more complex” Minnawi said.

The ICC’s prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced in mid-July that he requested an arrest warrant against Al-Bashir.

Ocampo filed 10 charges: three counts of genocide, five of crimes against humanity and two of murder. Judges are expected to take months to study the evidence before deciding whether to order Al-Bashir’s arrest.

Darfur rebels groups overwhelmingly hailed the ICC move but Minnawi’s faction has so far maintained silence. In the past the senior presidential assistant said he strongly backs the court.

Two years ago the Sudanese government has signed the DPA with the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) faction led by Minnawi who was appointed as the senior assistant of the Sudanese president in August of the same year.

However, Minnawi’s faction persistently accused the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) of ignoring the implementation of the DPA.

Sudanese hijackers have no connection with Darfur rebels – Sun Air

(Sudan Tribune) — The hijackers of the Sudanese plane have no connection with a Darfur rebel movement as it was said yesterday, said the director of the company operating the hijacked Boeing.

Sun Air Executive Director Murtada Hassan said hijackers motives were personal and they had no connection with any political or rebel groups. Due to security reasons, he said he could not reveal what the personal matters were. Hassan made this statement after the surrender of the two hijackers.

Yesterday, Libyan officials at the airport in Kufra said the hijackers were belonging to the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur. Al-Nur, who lives in France since two years,

dismissed hijackers' claims that they were members in his movement. He also accused Khartoum of organizing this operation to divert the attention from killing and atrocities committed by the government troops in Kalma camps the day before the hijacking.

Observers contacted by Sudan Tribune agree that operation started and ended with an exceptional easiness. They also raised questions about their claim of belonging to a rebel movement while they made no political demand.

During the negotiations with the Libyan authorities the hijacker only demanded to provide them maps and fuel in order to fly to France. Then they tried to negotiate political asylum in Libya.

The plane was hijacked on Tuesday shortly after take-off from the capital of South Darfur state, Nyala on a flight to the national capital Khartoum.