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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Local News Headlines

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- UN Official: JEM recruits refugees in East Chad (*Al Sudani / Al Ahdath*)
- Governor of South Kordofan says SPLM violated Naivasha Agreement (*Akhir Lahza*)
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- Abyei Administration invites citizens to register children at schools (*Sudan Vision*)
- Sudanese opposition forms committee to probe death of its secretary-general (*Al Sahafah*)
- Sudanese Chadian Military Committee to meet in Tripoli (*SMC*)

## Website/International News Headlines

- Sudan NCP says will stay in power longer with elections delay (*Sudan Tribune website*)
- Pirates 'to release Ukraine ship' (*BBC*)
- UN aid chief calls for end to attacks on relief workers in Darfur (*Sudan Tribune website*)
- Uganda rebel 'threatened on deal' (*BBC*)

## Commentary

- Choice for U.N. backs strong action against mass killings (*New York Times*)  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/01/us/politics/01rice.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/01/us/politics/01rice.html?_r=1&hp)

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# Highlights

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## ***Al-Bashir says French President promised to pressure Abdel Wahid***

*(All dailies)* The French President Nicholas Sarkozy has announced his country's commitment to put pressure on Abdel Wahid Nur, the Chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement, to take part in the Darfur peace process.

President Al-Bashir stated that the meeting with the French President in Doha discussed peace in Darfur and the ICC. "The French position was firm", Al-Bashir said. He pointed out to the positive development in the French stand on the ICC and added that no agreement was reached between the two sides and that dialogue on this issue would continue.

## ***UN Official: JEM recruits refugees in East Chad***

*(Al Sudani / Al Ahdath)* United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes stated that the protection of civilians still represents a key issue in Darfur. He pointed out to the recruitment of refugees by JEM in eastern Chad and the politicization of the IDP camps in Darfur. *SMC* reports that a JEM delegation headed by economic advisor Gibril Ibrahim would meet today in Doha with Qatari leadership, UN-Au envoys and members of UNSC to discuss peace initiative for Darfur.

## ***Governor of South Kordofan says SPLM violated Naivasha Agreement***

*(Akhir Lahza)* The government has reiterated its accusation to Israel of involvement in the Darfur crisis and attempting to transfer the conflict to Kordofan through provoking ethnic and racist tendencies. Governor of South Kordofan, Omer Suliman, revealed JEM attempts to transfer the conflict to South Kordofan in line with the ICG recent report. He described the partnership between the NCP and SPLM as "mature". He added that the decision of dismissal of the Finance Minister Dr. Ahmed Abdel Rahman Saed in the state was taken due to the week performance.

## ***Nafie on elections***

*(Al Sudani)* The Presidential assistant Dr. Nafie called on the students at Khartoum University to express their opinions and vote for the students' union. In his address to the students, Nafie strongly criticized the political forces and accused them of maneuvering over the next election. "Those who call for postponing the elections are dreaming", Nafie said adding that "if you want change then let us resort to the elections".

## ***Elections Commission holds first meeting***

*(Al-Ayaam)* The first meeting of the National Elections Commission convened yesterday. The meeting discussed various issues to be covered in the first quarter. The meeting also discussed work visits of the Commission to northern and southern states.

## ***Sudan and UN agree on a number of issues to facilitate humanitarian action***

*(Akhbar al Youm)* Sudan and UN agreed on a number of issues to support the humanitarian activities in the country to ensure that vulnerable people have access to aid assistance. The Undersecretary of MOFA Mustrif Siddiq discussed with John Holmes the humanitarian situation

in Sudan and the constraints facing it.

### ***China donates 20 million Yuan in support to unity***

**(Ajras Al Huriya)** Finance Minister Dr. Al Jaz revealed that China donated to Sudan an amount of 20 million Chinese Yuan to strengthen unity between the north and the south.

### ***SPLM political bureau meetings***

**(Khartoum Monitor)** The SPLM Political Bureau will hold a meeting next week in Juba, SPLM Spokesperson Yen Mathew stated. He added that the party was going to discuss the political situation in the country and the recommendations of the general conference of the political bureau.

### ***Ocampo's decision negatively will affect on the upcoming elections***

**(SMC / Sudan Vision)** Governor of North Darfur Osman Yousif Kibir asserted that ICC General Prosecutor aims to negatively affect elections.

### ***UN to hand over mine duties to Juba, Khartoum***

**(Sudan Tribune)** The United Nations demining agency completed a series of workshops to develop a transition framework with Sudanese authorities which will give Juba and Khartoum full ownership of mine action programmes by 2011.

### ***Abyei Administration invites citizens to register children at schools***

**(Sudan Vision Daily)** Abyei Deputy Administrator Rahma Abass has asserted that the administration provided social security in the whole area and that schools in all levels would resume work next week calling on all citizens to send their children to schools. He added that some citizens in Abyei started to build their houses from local materials and resumed their agricultural activities.

### ***Sudanese opposition forms committee to probe death of its secretary-general***

**(Al-Sahafah)** The National Ummah Party has set up a probe committee consisting of lawyers to investigate the road accident which claimed the life of the party's secretary-general, Abd-al-Nabi Muhammad, in Al-Jazirah State last week. A source from the party told **Al-Sahafah** that the committee would head today to the scene of the accident to investigate the accident, which he described as cloudy.

### ***Sudanese Chadian Military Committee to meet in Tripoli***

**(SMC)** Diplomats in Khartoum say the joint Sudanese Chadian military committee would meet in Tripoli, Libya by the end of the year, in order to discuss deployment of 2000 troops on common borders between the two countries. The joint military committee will also discuss and review location areas and consider formation of sub committees in Abashi Chad and Jinana Sudan.

## ***Website/International News Headlines***

### ***Sudan NCP says will stay in power longer with elections delay***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** – A senior Sudanese official today accused unspecified political parties of seeking to delay elections scheduled for next year.

“They want to postpone elections hoping they can raise the issue of a forming a broad coalition government” Sudan senior presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi told students at Khartoum university. “NCP will stay in power even if elections were delayed for a century” he added.

Yesterday a UN consultative team of experts advised the semi-autonomous southern Sudan government to postpone the next year general elections to November 2009 till the end of rainy season in order to avoid the logistical complications.

In accordance to the CPA, the general elections should be held before July 2009, four year after the formation of the National Unity government in July 2005.

Sudan elections Act was passed last July, while the electoral commission is appointed this week. The elections bill provides that elections should be organized six months after the appointment of electoral board members.

Sudanese officials have often said that the NCP is eager to hold elections on time in order to bestow legitimacy on the regime which came to power in 1989 through a bloodless coup. But some political parties suggested that the time is not ripe for elections given a raging conflict in Western region of Darfur. Nafi said that the NCP “is ready to compete in the elections”.

### ***Pirates 'to release Ukraine ship'***

(**BBC**) Somali pirates holding a ship full of military hardware have reached a deal with its Ukrainian owners to release it, reports say. Gunmen seized the Kenya-bound MV Faina, carrying 33 tanks, grenade launchers and ammunition, on 24 September.

A pirate spokesman said releasing the ship was "a matter of time", but gave no details of a ransom payment. Attacks by Somali pirates have escalated sharply in recent months, causing international concern.

Last month they seized a Saudi oil tanker, the Sirius Star, carrying oil worth more than \$100m (£65m). Negotiations are currently under way for the release of the vessel and its 25-man crew. The MV Faina, currently anchored off the pirate hub of Harardhere, has a mostly Ukrainian crew of 21. Pirates had initially demanded a ransom of \$20m.

"It is just a matter of time and a few technicalities before the ship recovers its freedom," French news agency **AFP** quoted Sugule Ali speaking on behalf of the pirates. "I can't tell you what the ransom is but what I can say is that an agreement has finally been reached," he added.

A Kenyan maritime official confirmed the deal and said the two sides were now "discussing the modalities of releasing the ship, crew and cargo".

Kenya says the arms are destined for its military, rejecting reports they were bound for the government of semi-autonomous southern Sudan.

### ***UN aid chief calls for end to attacks on relief workers in Darfur***

(**Sudan Tribune website**) – United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes called for an end to attacks on aid workers in Darfur, which are occurring twice as frequently this year as last year, and for improved cooperation with the government of Sudan. "It is unacceptable that we have double the attacks on aid workers than we had this time last year," said Homes, pinning the responsibility to protect humanitarian workers on the government while alleging that "it is the rebel movements and those linked to them who appear to be responsible for most of these attacks."

Meanwhile, government officials launched an intimidation campaign against aid workers in South Darfur, forcing them to hand over passwords to personal email accounts and files, UN officials told **Reuters** on Sunday.

The WFP in September warned of "relentless attacks on truck convoys" and was forced to cut rations earlier in the year. Holmes nevertheless credited Sudan with extending the so-called

"Moratorium on Fast Track Procedures for humanitarian workers in Darfur" until 31 January 2010.

### ***Uganda rebel 'threatened on deal'***

(**BBC**) Ugandan rebel chief Joseph Kony has said he is stalling on a long-awaited peace agreement amid threats to his life, says an opposition politician. Mediators had hoped the LRA leader would finally sign a deal at the weekend but returned home empty-handed.

Norbert Mao told the **BBC** Mr Kony said he had been warned he would be killed if he returned to his home village. Mr Kony also claimed hard-line rebels would brand him a traitor while the army had made threats too, Mr Mao said. On Monday, negotiator Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's former president, is due to meet Ugandan elders - who held talks with Mr Kony - to clarify what is holding up the peace deal. He has previously refused to sign until arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court against him and his fellow rebel leaders are withdrawn.

Uganda's government has said it will only request that after he has laid down his weapons. Mr Mao, an opposition politician in Gulu, northern Uganda, told the BBC's Network Africa programme: "He [Mr Kony] said he had got an SMS from a top military commander here in Gulu threatening that even if he signs he will still be fought militarily. Secondly he claimed that he had got a call from someone who comes from his village in Odek in Gulu saying that if he returns there's a likelihood of him being killed as part of revenge because of the murders he's [allegedly] responsible for in this part of the country. Finally there are those in the diaspora who used to be his backers and they have split from him and they're planning to set up another group and he said they sent him a message saying if he signs he will be considered a traitor and for them, they will continue with the fight." Meanwhile the Ugandan army was reportedly preparing to attack Mr Kony. Army spokesman Maj Paddy Ankunda told Ugandan newspaper ***The Daily Monitor*** the rebel chief had already "played his games to the last limit".

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