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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### ***SRSG urges active humanitarian work in Abyei***

**Local dailies** report SRSG Ashraf Qazi yesterday discussed with Abyei area Administration efforts to facilitate humanitarian work for better services to residents.

Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Al-Nur told **SMC** that he and Chief Administrator Arop Moyak met with Qazi yesterday in Abyei. The meeting focused on the humanitarian situation and efforts by the Administration to re-knit the social fabric. "Qazi urged an active humanitarian work," he said, noting that the SRSG held a series of meetings with Assembly and native administration members who assured him of the stability of the humanitarian and security situation since the formation of the new Abyei administration.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, Abyei Assembly members called on SRSG Qazi to play a positive role on security and to change the negative image of UNMIS troops arising from recent incidents in the area. They asked Qazi to convey a verbal message to the SG to help to the IDP returns and to provide services to the area. Assembly Speaker Charles Abyei said the Assembly members discussed issues of security, voluntary returns, compensation and donors' pledges to fund development in the area with the SRSG. Qazi told the meeting that the UN and UNMIS would stick to their mandate. The Assembly members stressed the need for UN role to boost development in the area.

**Al-Akhbar** reports the Abyei Administration as stating that it is awaiting Presidency approval of 2009 SDG 287 million budget for construction of roads and infrastructure. Chief Administrator Moyak said they opposed the elections delay. He said a nomad conference would be held tomorrow to address conflicts within the area.

SRSG Ashraf Qazi said approving the budget would assist CPA implementation. He noted UNMIS plans to assist the Abyei Administration during the upcoming period. Police in the area lack budget, technical and communication equipment, Qazi said, but the situation in the area had improved comparatively. However, IDP returns were slow and he stressed the need for cooperation by all parties to ensure security of the Dinka and the Messeriya.

**Al-Ayyam** reports Arop Moyak said the new Administration's debts amounted to SDG 700,000. SRSG Qazi said he had urged the Presidency to speed up approving the budget to give CPA implementation process a fillip.

### ***Census showing less than 15 million unacceptable – FVP Kiir***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the FVP Kiir said southerners would not accept census results should there be a rigging. "We will not accept less than 15 million," Kiir told a rally in Equatoria, calling on southerners to unite to block the path for those seeking to divide SPLM.

According to **Al-Ahdath**, Kiir said GoSS would not allow any part of the southern Sudan territory to be taken by anybody.

### ***Sudan rejects EU demand to abolish death penalty***

**Sudan Vision** reports Sudan government rejected an EU demand to abolish the death penalty. HR Consultative Council Rapporteur Abdul Moneim Osman Taha called on the EU not to interfere in judicial matters.

### ***Jebel Awlia assembly point for IDPs return***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the Joint Higher Committee between Sudan Government and UN agreed on Jebel Awlia area as an assembly point for IDPs returning to Southern Sudan, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

### ***Police ready to secure Khartoum during Eid***

**Sudan Vision** reports Khartoum State Police DG Gen. Mohammed Osman Mohammed Nour as saying that plans in place to secure Khartoum state during Eid Al-Adha holiday. He said police patrols would be stepped up inside residential areas.

### ***Darfur talks mid-January***

**Al-Khartoum** reports Sudanese sources as saying peace negotiations between the Sudanese Government and Darfur rebels are expected in Doha in mid January. **KUNA** quoted Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as saying the Government agreed to talks in mid January.

### ***22 killed, 13 wounded in Darfur***

**Al-Intibaha** reports 22 persons killed and 13 others wounded in armed clashes last Tuesday between the Habania and Salamat tribes and the Savanna insurgents in the Al-Nadeef area in Buram Locality of South Darfur.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Council Backs Idea to Indict Sudan Leader***

**New York Times**, Neil MacFarquhar, UNITED NATIONS — Members of the Security Council generally expressed support on yesterday for the ICC's moving ahead with the possible indictment of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan for war crimes in Darfur, although several voiced reservations that it would slow attempts to reach a peace settlement.

The discussion came after testimony to the council by Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the court's prosecutor, who warned that members should prepare in advance to enforce the indictment. The three-judge panel in The Hague is expected to reach a decision on the case presented by Mr. Moreno-Ocampo in either January or February.

The strongest opposition to the possible indictment came from Libya and South Africa, which called for suspending the proceedings for at least a year, while Russia and China called the timing poor.

"Starting legal proceedings in a hurried manner while the conflict is still going on will make unavoidable interference in the relevant political processes," the Chinese ambassador, Zhang Yesui, told the council.

The U.S., not a party to the court, voiced support. "The international community cannot ignore the atrocities and massive human suffering that have occurred during the ongoing conflict in Darfur," said Rosemary DiCarlo, an American envoy.

Sudanese ambassador Abdalhaleem said his country had improved its cooperation with the peacekeeping operations in Sudan, humanitarian groups and its estranged neighbor, Chad. "Are we to bring people back to square one by indicting the president who is the custodian of the whole peace process?" he said in an interview.

According to the **Associated Press**, the ICC chief prosecutor cautioned the U.N. yesterday to be prepared for reprisals in Darfur if he obtains a warrant to arrest Sudan's president on genocide charges. Luis Moreno-Ocampo said President Omar al-Bashir has been "inciting violence" over the court's charges by threatening civilians and peacekeepers in the joint U.N.-African Union force.

"Such threats should be seen for what they are — a confirmation of criminal intentions," the prosecutor said, adding the court would rule shortly on his warrant request. "It is time to be prepared for their ruling," he told the U.N. Security Council.

The prosecutor's briefing to the Security Council was his last before the court decides whether to issue a warrant for al-Bashir. There have been no rulings on the warrant yet; a court decision is expected by early next year.

There has been some support, notably among two of its veto-wielding permanent members, China and Russia, and among African and Arab nations, for invoking the Security Council's power to defer Moreno-Ocampo's prosecution for at least a year, out of fear that an attempt to arrest a sitting president could wreak further havoc in Darfur.

Both China and Russia are accused of arming Sudan, but both also approved the council's 2005 resolution ordering Moreno-Ocampo to investigate crimes in Darfur.

"We continue to hope that this council will take time, the necessary time, to have a discussion" on deferring the prosecution, South African Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo told the council Wednesday. "We are not lawyers, we are not prosecutors," Kumalo added. "We sit here having to make decisions ... to balance the two things between the maintenance of international security and for fighting impunity."

Such council voices, however, have so far been held to a minority.

"We know there could be reprisals, the situation could get even worse," countered Costa Rica's Ambassador Jorge Urbina. "Night is never so dark as before the dawn. We can't have this arm wrestle between the council and the court and not allow responsibility to be taken for one's acts."

Belgian Ambassador Jan Grauls said the council cannot allow itself to be "manipulated by blackmail" by caving in to al-Bashir's threats of more violence.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese ambassador at the UN, Abdalmahmood Abdul Haleem Mohamad, told the **BBC** that Mr. Ocampo "repeated his politically motivated allegations" adding that "it was a political statement not a legal one". "Ocampo repeated the same baseless accusation against Sudan. It is a political blackmail," He told the Sudanese **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper. He is increasingly transforming the ICC into a tool that has nothing to do with justice" says Abdul Haleem, according to **Reuters**, adding that most countries in the world want the Security Council to suspend the investigation against Bashir.

### ***Commentary: Sudan and the ICC***

**International Herald Tribune** [Op-Ed by David Scheffer, 3/12/08] -- 'In this society if you rape one woman, you have raped the entire tribe' - so said one observer of the mass rape occurring in Darfur.

People hear the word genocide and think of six million victims of the Holocaust or an estimated 800,000 dead in Rwanda. They do not imagine that mass rape can be so well planned and targeted that it wipes out a substantial part of an ethnic group as thoroughly, though more slowly, than widespread killings. Yet three judges sitting on the International Criminal Court will decide soon whether to confirm an arrest warrant against a head of state, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan, on grounds that he masterminded rape as genocide against three ethnic groups in Darfur that have challenged his power.

The ICC's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, has filed war crimes and crimes against humanity charges against Bashir. But the centerpiece of Moreno-Ocampo's application is the charge of rape as genocide "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group" and "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." Such acts of genocide arising from rape rather than from murder

can be prosecuted as stand-alone crimes before the International Criminal Court.

Their complexity, despite helpful rulings from the Rwanda and Bosnia war crimes tribunals, may discourage the judges from affirming genocide charges while they opt for the more familiar terrain of other atrocity crimes charges. Hanging in the balance is whether the heinous strategy of mass rape in modern warfare will be condemned and prosecuted for what it truly is: genocide.

The judges have to find "reasonable grounds" to arrest Bashir on the rape-as-genocide charges. They need not establish proof beyond a reasonable doubt - that standard applies at trial. So far, the evidence presented by Moreno-Ocampo appears compelling under either standard.

The prosecutor's investigation reveals that Bashir's forces and agents forcibly drove approximately 2.5 million Sudanese, including substantial numbers of the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa ethnic groups, into camps of internally displaced persons. They then inflicted rape and other forms of severe sexual violence upon thousands of women and girls, and continue to do so. A common tactic is for the Janjaweed tribal militia and Sudan's armed forces and security agents to roam outside the camps raping and often gang-raping women and girls who must leave the camps to collect firewood, grass or water in order to survive. One witness said: "Maybe around 20 men rape one woman. ... These things are normal for us here in Darfur. ... They rape women in front of their mothers and fathers."

Babies born following the rapes are called "Janjaweed babies" who rarely have a future in the mother's ethnic group. Infanticides and abandonment of such babies are common. One victim explained, "They kill our males and dilute our blood with rape. [They] ... want to finish us as a people, end our history."

Imagine the collective horror if men and boys in these ethnic groups were raped and then castrated. Would anyone doubt that genocidal impulses were at work by depriving men of their ability to father babies within their own ethnic group? Raped women and girls are similarly crippled.

In the 1990's I met scores of rape victims from atrocities in the Balkans, Sierra Leone, Uganda and eastern Congo. In most cases their experiences were so devastating to their character, their ethnic bonds and often to their health that the logic of how mass rape can destroy a substantial part of a group and thus constitute genocide seemed clear. These women typically were ostracized from their communities, could not marry their ethnic men, or were physically incapable of rearing children.

The fairly unique circumstances in Darfur enable Bashir to inflict conditions of life that are destroying the three ethnic groups. Of the estimated 80,000 to 265,000 "slow deaths" in the camps to date, the targeted groups have suffered grievously. The evidence shows a highly sophisticated strategy at work combining scorched-earth assaults on ethnic villages followed by isolation in camps where starvation, illness, and rape are used to achieve genocidal aims.

The judges also must find reasonable grounds that Bashir has had the specific criminal intent to commit genocide through a strategy of mass rape. The rules on establishing the mens rea, or guilty mind, have been highly developed in genocide cases prosecuted before other war crimes tribunals. The genocidal intent can be inferred from the factual circumstances of the crime. In Darfur, there is no shortage of actions, including repeated mass rapes, from which to infer genocidal intent. The prosecutor argues that the only reasonable inference available on the evidence is that Bashir intended to destroy in part the ethnic groups.

The wild card remains the United Nations Security Council, which may yet cave into political pressure and prevent approval or execution of an arrest warrant against the Sudanese leader. But if the judges can continue their review and find reasonable grounds to charge rape as



genocide, thousands of women and girls attacked by rapists as a means of decimating their ethnic groups will share a small measure of justice and peace.

***[David Scheffer, the former U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues (1997-2001), is a law professor and director of the Center for International Human Rights at Northwestern University School of Law]***

### ***Huge challenges remain in Darfur, Chad - USG***

**UN News Service**, 3/12/08, NY - Both the Government and the rebels in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region bear responsibility for the immense humanitarian challenges there, while the rapid deployment of an enhanced UN force in neighbouring Chad is vital for improving the lot of refugees, the top UN relief official said today.

"There is plenty of room to criticize the Government of Sudan for continuing human rights violations, for not disarming the militias, for not always facilitating humanitarian relief, or for declaring a ceasefire [and] then almost immediately violating it," USG for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes told the Security Council in a briefing on his recent visit to both Sudan and Chad.

"However the rebel movements have neither declared a cease-fire nor shown great readiness to engage in a political process, and are also not helping relief efforts. They have a lot to answer for, too."

Mr. Holmes said his discussions overall with the Sudanese authorities, "while frank at times," took place in a constructive spirit. "We now need to see rapid results on the ground. We are also intensifying our contacts with the rebel movements to persuade them that they too must respect humanitarian personnel and aid efforts," he added.

With the billion-dollar humanitarian operation in Darfur still the largest in the world, he said the critical humanitarian challenges were access and protection of civilians amid the uprooting of a further 315,000 people this year alone and "the dramatic increase" in attacks on humanitarians and their property.

As of 30 November, 261 vehicles had been hijacked and 172 compounds broken into. Rebel movements, or those linked to them, appear primarily responsible for the majority of "these terrifying incidents" in rural areas, but many also occur in main towns in Government control.

"I call on both the Government security forces and rebel leaders to put a stop to this banditry once and for all," Mr. Holmes said. "It seriously damages the quality of assistance – just as one example, (UN) World Food Programme rations are still only at 70 per cent because of attacks on their convoys – and it damages the credibility of their promises to ensure our safety."

He added that throughout his trip in Darfur, he was confronted with the pervasive risk of sexual violence. "I met many women who had the courage to speak out," he said. "It was therefore particularly disturbing that programmes aimed at preventing or responding to this violence are under increased pressure from Government authorities."

Turning to Chad, where 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 57,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR), as well as 263,000 Darfurians, are receiving humanitarian assistance, Mr. Holmes called for rapid deployment of the enhanced 6,000-strong UN Mission in CAR and Chad (MINURCAT) to replace the 3,000-strong European Union Force (EUFOR).

EUFOR is due to leave eastern Chad, which has suffered from internal strife, rebel activity and a spill-over from the Darfur conflict, by March. Mr. Holmes said banditry had worsened and posed a significant threat to IDPs, refugees, aid workers and the local population. Overall, he added, "I left Chad with slightly more optimism about future prospects, including in terms of our efforts to provide life-saving humanitarian aid, than I had expected. However, the risks of rapid deterioration remain high. The international community, and this Council, cannot afford to neglect Chad."

Mr. Holmes also visited southern Sudan. "The good news is that some 12,000 kilometres of roads have been de-mined, 3,000 water points rehabilitated, 2.4 million former IDPs and refugees returned, and primary school enrolment rates have risen dramatically," he said. "Some of the "peace dividends" hoped for on the signing of the peace agreement have begun to appear. But there is a long way to go."

In oil-rich Abyei in central Sudan, still contested by north and south despite the peace agreement, an estimated 50,000 people fled violence in May. Mr. Holmes stressed that most of the population would not return due to fear of renewed violence without progress on setting up local joint implementation and police units.

"I took every opportunity to remind the Government of Sudan of their fundamental responsibilities in this context. For our part we will do everything in our power to maintain our operations to help those in need."

### ***Darfur IDPs reject UNAMID call for dialogue with Sudan government***

***Sudan Tribune website***, 3/12/08 (NYALA) – The representatives of Darfur Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) yesterday rejected a call by the deputy head of UNAMID to engage dialogue with the Sudanese government on security issues.

On Tuesday, UNAMID deputy head Henry Anyidoho met with local chiefs at Kalma camp, near Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State and invited the IDPs representatives to "begin discussions with the Government to look into different issues of concern and establish a mechanism to address these issues jointly," the UNAMID said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

He said UNAMID was working with the Government and the humanitarian community to provide a secure environment so that the IDPs could return to their place of origin. "While these efforts are underway, the Mission will continue to assist the IDPs in every possible way in line with our mandate and the resources available," he said. However, he also underscored that UNAMID would not replace the role of the Government in this matter of security.

Hussein Abusharati the IDPs and refugees spokesperson told Sudan Tribune that they rejected the offer of the UNAMID because "They want to implement an agreement (Abuja deal) that we reject; also such issue should be debated with the SLM and its leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur during the peace talks not with us," he underlined.

The IDPs spokesperson added that Anyidoho and his delegation angered some of the IDPs chiefs when he called them to deal with the Sudanese security officials to resolve security issues and the individual compensation.

"The local chiefs rejected the call and reiterated their rejection the presence of the Sudanese government officials in the camps. They also stressed that such questions have to be discussed with Abdel Wahid (Al-Nur) once Khartoum implements conducive environment for the talks," Abusharati said.

He further said the IDPs chiefs urge the international community to respond positively to their demand for security" and added "If the UNAMID cannot provide such protection it would be better to transport us in refugee camps outside the country till the resolution of the conflict."

Meanwhile, UNAMID announced yesterday that it would remain alert to the tension caused by the death of a janjaweed after a clash between two militiamen and some residents of Hassa Hissa camp, near Zanlingei in West Darfur state.

IDP spokesperson, Hussein Abu Sharati told ***Sudan Tribune*** yesterday that militias are still gathered at one kilometre from Hassa Hissa camp and shooting in the air sporadically in order to scare the IPDs. He also raised alarm over water shortages in the camp saying the janjaweed are controlling the water wells which are outside of the camp and the residents of the camp

have run out of water.

However the UNAMID said it dispatched troops to monitor the situation. Further, the Sudanese authorities and the hybrid mission are engaged in a negotiation process between the militias and the IDPs Sheikhs.

Abu Sharati, who confirmed the burning of five water pumps supplying the camp of Hassa Hissa, said one of the two militiamen was killed because he had tried to rape a woman working in a brick factory near the camp when a group of men from the camp saw him brutalizing the woman.

### ***NCP says Abyei issue not to be settled outside Hague Tribunal***

**Al-Ra'y al-Amm**, 3/12/08 -- The NCP representative in the Abyei arbitration committee, Ambassador Al-Dirdiri Muhammad Ahmad, has denied there is any intention to settle the Abyei issue outside the framework of The Hague Tribunal. He told Al-Ra'y al-Amm that the committee's work is progressing as planned. "We consider the schedule drawn by the committee in its last meeting as totally consistent with what was specified in the [Abyei road map] agreement regarding the timeline".

In related vein, the British Embassy in Khartoum extended an apology to Abyei arbitration committee member Abd-al-Rasul al-Nur, for not granting him a visa to travel to the UK with the committee's delegation.

### ***Southern Sudan army officers reportedly resign 'en masse'***

**Sudanese Media Centre website**, 3/12/08, Khartoum -- SPLA acknowledges that 50% of its officers promoted recently to the rank of colonel have resigned, according to a report in Ra'ay Al-aam newspaper today. An article posted on the Southern Sudan Nation website yesterday says 640 out of 700 officers supposed to have established the new SPLM army resigned for not receiving salaries for more than one year.