



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

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Media Monitoring Report

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By Public Information Office

Local news headlines (Arabic language press, state TV and Radio)

- National Assembly rejects ICC request of warrant (State TV)
- Council of States condemns ICC (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- President issues decree setting up crisis committee (State TV)
- President Bashir meets Umma Party leader on ICC (State Radio)
- Anti-ICC demonstrations continue (State TV)
- Ocampo to open a new case soon (Al-Sahafa)
- Western diplomat: Ocampo request for warrant of arrest can be suspended (Al-Sahafa)
- Chief of Joint Staff: ICC request of warrant against the president is declaration of war on Sudan (Akhbar Al Youm)
- PDF ready for Jihad (Al-Wifaq)
- JIUs commander: ICC prosecution may lead to CPA collapse (Al-Sudani)
- Arrest Al Bashir leads to constitutional collapse (Akhir Lahza)
- AU warns of coup because of ICC (Ajras Al-Hurriah)
- Nigeria peacekeeper killed in Darfur (Rai Al-Aam)
- Ugandan army quit southern Sudan (Rai Al-Aam)

Websites/International headlines

- Egypt planning to deport Darfur refugees: rebels (ST)
- Japanese parliamentarians visit South Sudan (ST)
- African rights groups praise ICC on Sudan but ask for fairness (AFP)
- Khartoum rally cries 'death for Ocampo' (AFP)
- Another peacekeeper from UN-African Union force in Darfur killed (Reuters)
- Mixed reaction to ICC ruling (Al-Jazeera.net)
- AU panel head says Sudan charges could be mistake
- Commentaries

Local news coverage (Arabic language press, state TV and Radio)

State TV reported that the President of the Republic Omer Bashir had issued a decree setting up a crisis committee. The Committee comprises the First Vice President Salva Kiir as chair and Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and Presidential Assistant Musa Mohamed Ahmed as members to develop a roadmap to manage the crisis created by the ICC request of warrant against the President.

The National Assembly in an emergency session yesterday unanimously condemned the ICC indictment, said **state TV** main news bulletin. The Parliament passed a resolution supporting the government's position not to deal or recognize the ICC. The charges have no legal basis, the Parliament declared.

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper reported that the Council of States issued resolution (1) 2008) condemning ICC request for warrant against President Bashir. The resolution supported Government refusal to hand over any Sudanese to ICC, described the court as political, calls on the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities to stop the farce and appeals to the world parliaments and organizations for support.

As part of ongoing efforts to address ICC issue, **State Radio** broadcast that President of the Republic Omer Bashir met with leader of the National Umma Party Sadiq Al Mahdi for discussion on ICC move. The meeting stressed the need for addressing Darfur issue and achieving national consensus. Mr. Mahdi said his Party would launch an initiative during the forthcoming 48 hours to address Darfur.

Anti-ICC demonstrations continue being staged. A "million-man" march will take place on Monday, says state TV main news bulletin.

The ICC Prosecutor is in the process of charging Darfur rebel commanders with crimes against humanity, those responsible for killing peacekeepers in Haskanita in 2007, **Al-Sahafa** newspaper quoted the correspondent of Arabiya TV as saying. According to the correspondent, the charges would be directed against JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim and two other rebel commanders, Ali Karbino and Kado. Ocampo will also investigate killing of seven UNAMID peacekeepers in North Darfur last week.

Al-Sahafa newspaper also reported that a senior Security Council Ambassador, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said President Bashir could evade Ocampo's charges if he hands over the two suspects, Ahmed Haroun and Ali Koshayb.

Akhbar Al Youm reported that Chief of Joint Army Staff Gen. Mohamed Abdul Gadir, at meeting with joint staff and army units yesterday at the Army HQs, said that ICC request of warrant for arrest against the President represents declaration of war on Sudan. The armed forces are ready for any eventuality, we will retaliate forcefully to any threat to the country's security, the newspaper quoted the General as saying.

Whereas **Al-Wifaq** newspaper carries a report to the effect that the commander of the Peoples Defence Forces (PDF) Col. Jaffar Abdul Aaleem declared the readiness of the

PDF to fight within and outside Sudan. According to the newspaper, the PDF declared full support for the President.

Peace should be achieved in Darfur by pure national efforts, we should stop seeking help of foreigners whose approach run counter to our interests, says Dr. Rabie Abdul Atti, in his column captioned “facts and expectations”, in **Al-Wifaq** newspaper.

The ICC prosecution of President Bashir will hinder implementation of the CPA and might lead to its collapse, says commander of JIUs (Fifth Division), Brig. Jagood Makwar, in Southern Kordofan, according to **Al-Sudani** newspaper. He made the statement in an interview to SUNA in Kadugli.

According to **Akhir Lahza** newspaper, the Sudanese Communist Party stated that request of warrant for arresting the President might lead to constitutional crisis in the country. The Party’s spokesperson Mr. Yousuf Hussain said Ocampo’s case should be challenged legally and politically.

Ajras Al-Hurriyah newspaper carries a report stating that AU warned of military coup and chaos if a warrant is issued to arrest Al Bashir. If Bashir is arrested there will be power vacuum and that could lead to chaos and invite military coup, the newspaper quoted AU as saying.

A Nigerian officer working with UNAMID was killed in Faraboronga area in west Darfur yesterday while performing his patrol duty with colleagues, reported **Rai Al-Aam** newspaper. The officer was shot yesterday and died on the spot. UNAMID condemned the incident and called upon the International Community to live up to its responsibilities towards the Mission and the people of Darfur.

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper also reported that SPLA spokesperson Maj. Gen. Peter Pariang told Miraya FM that Ugandan army has pulled out of southern Sudan after the withdrawal was demanded by GoSS.

Website/International news coverage

Egypt planning to deport Darfur refugees: rebels

(**Sudan Tribune**) — A rebel group accused Egypt of planning to sanction Darfur refugees who try to cross to Israel by prosecute them or handing them over to Sudanese authorities, exposing them to great risks.

Japanese parliamentarians visit South Sudan

(**Sudan Tribune**) – A team of Japanese members of parliament headed by the Chairperson of Research Committee on National Life and Economy, Honourable

Tetsuro Yano paid a two-day visit to Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, on Wednesday to acquaint themselves with the general situation in the region.

The team met with the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar and discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations between Japan and Southern Sudan particularly on development issues.

Machar also briefed the team on the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The meeting concentrated on economic ties, especially the promotion of investment and trade between Southern Sudan and Japan.

Machar commended the role played by the Japanese government through its development projects in Juba and appreciated its pledge of 200 million US dollars to Sudan during the Second Oslo Donors Conference this year.

Head of the delegation to Juba, Hon. Tetsuro Yano said Japan would continue to promote bilateral relations with Southern Sudan in various fields. He expressed the Japanese government's commitment to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

African rights groups praise ICC on Sudan but ask for fairness

(AFP) — African human rights organizations on Wednesday praised the request by the ICC's chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for an arrest warrant for Sudan's president but warned it of appearing biased against African countries.

However, while African human rights organizations praised the request to indict al-Bashir, there was also criticism Wednesday that the ICC was focusing too much on Africa.

"It is a very courageous act," Malian lawyer Brahim Kone of Interafrican Union for Human Rights (IUHR) told AFP.

"It is a decisive step forwards in the fight against impunity in Africa," the president of the Ouagadougou-based NGO, which unites some 30 African human rights groups, added.

In Senegal, human rights watchdog Raddho also praised the demand for an arrest warrant, but urged the ICC to be fairer in its investigations.

"Raddho calls on the judges of the ICC to show their fairness so as not to give the impression of an international justice system at two speeds," the organization said in a statement.

"Underdeveloped countries with no real power, African states are the weakest link in the international community and the easiest targets for the ICC ... Everything leads us to believe that certain world leaders seem to have immunity from prosecution by the ICC," it added.

The president of the Burkina Faso human rights organization MBDHP, Chrysogone Zougmore, echoed the same sentiment.

"The ICC should also open its eyes to what happens in other countries in the world so that it is not perceived as only acting against African leaders at fault," he said.

If the ICC granted its prosecutor's request, it would be the first time it had brought charges against a sitting head of state since its creation in 2002.

Al-Bashir is the second African head of state who could be charged by an international court, following the indictment of former Liberian president Charles Taylor by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Khartoum rally cries "death for Ocampo"

KHARTOUM (AFP) — More than 1,000 protestors gathered outside the Republican Palace in Khartoum today (Thursday), shouting "death" to the ICC prosecutor seeking an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir.

Shouting "God is Great" and "Go Forward Bashir", students and Arab tribesmen from western Sudan's war-torn region of Darfur angrily condemned allegations that the head of state was guilty of genocide and war crimes...

Participants in the demonstration, organized by members of the president's National Congress party, cried "We the Darfur tribes support al-Bashir" and "death for Ocampo."

AU panel head says Sudan charges could be mistake

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The genocide charges against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir could "lead to a lot of danger," the chairman of an African Union panel said Thursday.

The charges could be "an unconstitutional way of pushing aside a head of state," former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella said in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital and headquarters of the AU.

He leads the "Panel of the Wise," which is tasked with promoting efforts to prevent conflict in Africa.

Meanwhile, Syria's foreign minister said the charges against Sudan's president would set a dangerous new precedent. Walid al-Moallem said the case aims only to destabilize Sudan and obstruct peace efforts in Darfur.

Al-Moallem's comments were carried by Syria's official news agency Thursday. Hamas said its Damascus-based leader Khaled Mashaal denounced the "new conspiracy" against Sudan. In a phone call to al-Bashir, Mashaal called the charges proof of the International Criminal Court's "submissiveness" to American wishes.

African rights groups praise ICC on Sudan but ask for fairness

July 16, 2008 (DAKAR) — African human rights organizations on Wednesday praised the request by the ICC's chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for an arrest warrant for Sudan's president but warned it of appearing biased against African countries. But while African human rights organizations praised the request to indict al-Bashir, there was also criticism Wednesday that the ICC was focusing too much on Africa.

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The president of the Burkina Faso human rights organisation MBDHP, Chrysogone Zougmore, echoed the same sentiment. "The ICC should also open its eyes to what happens in other countries in the world so that it is not perceived as only acting against African leaders at fault," he said. (AFP)

Another peacekeeper from UN-African Union force in Darfur killed

16 July - A peacekeeper serving with the joint African Union-United Nations force in Darfur (UNAMID) was killed today while on patrol in the strife-torn region, just one week after seven blue helmets with the mission were slain.

The peacekeeper was killed in Forobarang in West Darfur state, according to preliminary information received by UNAMID, the mission said in a press statement. "UNAMID condemns all acts of violence against its peacekeepers," the statement added, noting that an investigation has begun into today's killing.

The attack comes one week after five Rwandan peacekeepers and two police officers – one from Ghana and the other from Uganda – were killed when a UNAMID patrol convoy came under attack in Um Hakibah in North Darfur. At least 19 other mission staff were wounded in the incident.

The Security Council adopted a presidential statement condemning last week's killings, calling it an "unacceptable act of extreme violence" and noting it is the worst attack on the mission since it began at the start of the year.

"The Council is particularly concerned that the attack was premeditated, deliberate and intended to inflict casualties," according to the statement, read out by Ambassador Le Luong Minh of Viet Nam, which holds the rotating Council

presidency this month. Welcoming the UN investigation, and Sudan's stated willingness to assist the probe, Mr. Minh called on the Government "to do its utmost to ensure that the perpetrators of the attack are swiftly identified and brought to justice." The presidential statement stressed that attacks on UN peacekeepers during an armed conflict can constitute war crimes under international law. The statement followed a Council briefing on Darfur by USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno. A Chinese engineering company of 175 officers is due to join the mission tomorrow in South Darfur.

Commentaries

From the Guardian (16 July 08):

... Given the evidence against Bashir that his investigation has thrown up, Ocampo's discretion is severely limited, and does not encompass guesswork about future political negotiations or judgments about which way members of the Security Council will vote. Nor should it. He is a prosecutor, not a diplomat, and the credibility of the ICC depends on that distinction being maintained. As well as requiring any arrest warrant to be approved by a panel of judges, the ICC's statute provides extensive avenues to challenge a decision not to prosecute....

Heads of state often make the mistake of believing too literally the legal fiction that they are the embodiment of the state. Soon, not just Bashir's enemies but his friends too will realise that he is damaged goods. China does not need Bashir to continue doing oil deals in Sudan. He is unlikely ever to recover.

[By Mark Lattimer, director of Minority Rights Group International and co-editor with Philippe Sands of the book *Justice for Crimes against Humanity* – Guardian]

From the Financial Times (16 July 08):

... Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, a presidential adviser, says the biggest danger is that the indictment will dilute support for Mr Bashir within the military - an integral part of the ruling regime - and among supporters of the president's National Congress party. "To ordinary Sudanese our president is now a wanted man," he says, noting that the indictment has made clear to Sudanese people for the first time the extent of the international clamour over atrocities in Darfur. "It undermines the president as leader of the party and of the armed forces and has implications for the running of the government a

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