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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

Local News Headlines

- UN refuses to intervene in ICC indictment (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Army says Bashir is a redline, receives official request to protect UNAMID (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- SPLA threatens to withdraw from JIUs in Abyei (Al-Sahafa)
- Vice President Taha to visit Saudi Arabia in connection with ICC indictment (Al Rai Al-Aaam)
- President of the Republic to visit Darfur today, the visit is a new beginning to resolve Darfur crisis (Sudan Vision/Al-Khartoum)
- British delegation from the two houses to arrive in Khartoum Wednesday (SUNA)
- Civil Society Organizations staged demonstration denouncing ICC Prosecutor's allegations (SUNA)
- Foreign Ministry affirms continuity of efforts to refute ICC allegations (SUNA)
- CPA faces great challenges: Machar (Khartoum Monitor)
- GoNU interviews 200 southerners for posts (The Citizen)
- SPLM financial secretary killed in Kass Locality in South Darfur (Al-Sudani)

Websites/International Headlines

- Darfur peacekeeping at risk if Bashir indicted: Sudan (AFP)
- Sudan's SPLM strategize campaign for next year's elections (ST)
- Rights group says Abyei displaced remain unable to return (ST)
- Museveni, Salva Kiir reiterates support for peace in Uganda and Darfur (ST)
- Arab League says Sudan agrees to investigate Darfur war crimes (ST)
- Sudanese soldiers assault a peacekeeper in Darfur (ST)
- Eritrea says ICC accusations against Sudan president is an "insult" (ST)
- Rumbek Correspondent beaten brutally by SPLA soldiers (ST)
- Egyptian and Ethiopian troops expected in Darfur by the end of July – envoy (ST)

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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 news coverage (Arabic and English language press)

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper reported that the UN spokesperson said the organization can not interfere with ICC indictment of President Bashir. "ICC is independent, UNGA can not intervene in any matter relating to it," the UN spokesperson was quoted as saying.

President Bashir is a "redline", indicting him is SAF targetting and an insult, Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein told Bahraini Al-Waqt newspaper, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. He said SAF had received a request from UN to protect UNAMID from armed movements' attacks. We have made the necessary arrangement and we are prepared to protect UNAMID troops, he said.

The Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha is to visit Saudi Arabia on Saturday to convey a message to the Saudi King about the ICC indictment. Local and regional support for Sudan over ICC is unprecedented, Taha said.

Al-Sahafa newspaper reported that NCP and SPLM have received from The Hague a list of arbitrators to choose from when they look into Abyei border issue within a week. The list of panelists also includes co-chair of the constitution commission Abel Alyeur and ex-chief justice Khalafallah Al-Rashid.

SPLA has threatened to withdraw from the JIU in Abyei if SAF continues to destroy and loot Abyei, according to the

same newspaper. GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong reportedly told the newspaper that two SAF battalions were still in Abyei.

Sudan Vision reported that the President would visit the three states of Darfur today accompanied by a high-level delegation from the federal government. South Darfur governor said the visit was intended to refute the allegations of the ICC prosecutor and to prove the support of the Darfurian people, with all tribes, to the leadership of the country. The President's visit is a new beginning for resolving Darfur crisis, says South Darfur State Government's advisor Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Zain, according to Al-Khartoum newspaper.

SUNA reported that a high-level British delegation would arrive in Khartoum Wednesday. The visit is a follow up of the initiative announced by Lord Ahmed Nazir last April to realize peace and reconciliation in Darfur.

The Sudanese Council of Voluntary Organizations (SCOVA) Tuesday staged a procession condemning the ICC allegations, according to **SUNA**. The demonstration marched to the premises of the UN office in Khartoum and handed over memos of protest to the UN representative to Sudan and also to the British Embassy in Khartoum.

SUNA also reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it would continue refuting the allegations of the prosecutor of the ICC against Sudan until the court judges declare their vision on the request for warrant. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq, said the dismissal of the request by the ICC

judges would be a big victory for Sudan.

The CPA is facing great challenges due to shaky inter-party relations in the north and south of Sudan as well as tribal conflicts, says Vice President of Government of South Sudan, Riak Machar, according to **Khartoum Monitor** newspaper. Machar made the statements at workshop organized yesterday at the University of Juba in southern Sudan.

The Citizen newspaper carried a report about 200 southern Sudanese having applied for civil service jobs in the GoNU. The Commission of the Civil Service yesterday declared that it would submit a recommendation to the Ministry of Labour on four Southern candidates to fill leadership posts. The posts include undersecretaries, general managers and units directors within the 20% allocated for southerners in the public service under the CPA.

Al-Sudani newspaper reported that unidentified armed group killed SPLM Secretary (Finance) Nourelddine Jibril in Kass Locality in South Darfur. The SPLM secretary was killed while returning home from his farm on motorbike.

Website/International news coverage

Darfur peacekeeping at risk if Bashir indicted

(AFP) — Sudan on Tuesday warned that peacekeeping in the troubled Darfur region would suffer if ICC indicted President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes and genocide.

Sudan would not accept the presence of a peacekeeping force on standby-by in Darfur to arrest the president when he visited the region, presidential advisor

Bonal Malual told reporters. He was speaking a day after talks with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki. Malual hinted that measures could include denying or withdrawing visa for foreign nationals in Darfur to enable the government to enforce security there.

Sudan's SPLM strategize campaign for next year's elections

(Sudan Tribune) – SPLM is holding a two-day Political Bureau Campaign Meeting in Juba to strategize on campaigns for the next year's general elections in the country.

SPLM officials say the two-day campaign strategies meeting or workshop is very vital exercise to guide the Party in conducting effective campaigns to win the national elections in the Sudan's 25 states including the heavily populated national capital, Khartoum.

In a closed-door meeting chaired by the First Deputy Chairperson of the Party, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, the meeting, which included international facilitators on Tuesday, began to discuss a wide range of vital issues in preparations for effective and successful campaign plans.

In his opening keynote speech, Machar explained the importance of the strategic Meeting on the coming elections, which he said would be symmetric and difficult to be grasped by the ordinary voters unless explained to them in advance and properly.

The two-day SPLM Political Bureau Campaign Meeting is expected to discuss the role of the Party structures in the election campaign, especially the roles each of the key Party organs is expected to play before and during the forthcoming elections and how these structures interact.

Facilitators will provide an overview of

Sudan elections timetable from 2008 to 2011, and an overview of recent findings on elections infrastructure and planning in Southern Sudan. The Meeting will also give an overview of the strategic role of the political party in the campaign process, with emphasis on political marketing – linking the party to citizens.

It will also discuss the SPLM campaign plan and process including writing the campaign plan, budgeting and financial management, research, messaging, voter education and outreach among others.

The SPLM Political Bureau will also discuss in the workshop on the best/workable strategies for candidate selection and the qualities of strong candidates, sharing or putting into consideration international and regional experiences. The meeting will also discuss requirements for gender mainstreaming in candidate selection.

Finally, the meeting is expected to come out with a SPLM Master Campaign Calendar draft plan.

Rights group says Abyei displaced remain unable to return

(Sudan Tribune) – More than a month after the signing of a roadmap to end dispute over Abyei and the return of the displaced, tens of thousands of civilians are still unable to return to their home, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

Abyei inhabitants who had fled south of the town said that SAF soldiers shot civilians who were trying to flee, and detained and then arbitrarily killed others.

“Two months after the clashes there is still no clear information on how many civilians died and under what circumstances,” said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

The two ruling parties in northern and southern Sudan, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM reached a roadmap on June 8 which called on both sides to withdraw their forces from the area and deploy a new Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) to provide security in the town before the return of the population.

However, neither side has completely withdrawn its troops. Displaced people from Abyei told Human Rights Watch they would not go home until this was done, out of fear of a return to violence.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was aware of growing tensions and the build-up of troops in Abyei since late 2007. But there were only 200 peacekeepers, a force that was insufficient to protect civilians and their property.

UNMIS was also hampered by long-standing restrictions on its movement by both the SAF and SPLA, despite a mandate that guarantees full freedom of movement.

The rights group warned that delays in implementation of the roadmap are leading to renewed tension between the two sides. On July 7, a SPLM soldier shot and injured a UN military observer and a SAF monitor in Agok, south of Abyei.

Museveni, Salva Kiir reiterate support for peace in Uganda and Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudanese First Vice-President and head of southern Sudan government agreed with the Ugandan president on the need to sign peace in Uganda with LRA rebels and block indictment of President al-Bashir for the sake of peace in Darfur and southern Sudan

During a one-day visit to Kampala, Salva

Kiir Mayadrit and Yoweri Museveni discussed African support for the Sudanese President against the 10 charges filed against him by the International Criminal Court prosecutor who seeks an arrest warrant for him.

President Museveni reiterated to Vice President Mayadrit his support to the African Union efforts to suspend any indictment of the Sudanese president, saying it could hinder the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the peace process in Darfur

The First Vice President, who is the head of a crisis committee to deal with the ICC, told the press that the "Sudanese government should be allowed to implement the accord signed with the South Sudan government and to negotiate with the fighting forces in Darfur."

Talking to the media about the resumption of the Sudanese sponsored peace talks to end war in northern Uganda; they affirmed their commitment to reach peace saying they are waiting for the signing of the final peace agreement by the leader of the Lord Resistance Army Joseph Kony. Salva Kiir told reporters in the Ugandan capital that Uganda, South Sudan are waiting for Joseph Kony to sign the final peace agreement.

While the Ugandan rebels ask for the resumption of peace talks, Salva Kiir told the press "all we want is his signature on that paper."

Museveni was more clear when he said "we want him to sign the final peace agreement and not fresh talks."

The Ugandan President further stressed that they tackled the border security, a matter that implies cooperation between

the Ugandan army and the Southern Sudan army.

"We have had very fruitful discussions on the border security. We have discussed Kony and the LRA in the area, infrastructure and other elements of bilateral cooperation." Museveni said.

Museveni and Mayadrit also turned down questions related to the withdrawal of the Ugandan army from southern Sudan as it had been requested by the Vice president of southern Sudan government, Riek Machar.

But Salva Kiir denied doing so in an earlier interview with the daily Al-Rayaam. Kiir underlined that such a decision needs more time.

Arab League says Sudan agrees to investigate Darfur war crimes

(Sudan Tribune) — An Arab League official today revealed the plan carried by its Secretary General Amr Moussa to Sudan president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to deal with the row with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Sudan will be continuing its consideration of the violations of human rights and the crimes committed in Darfur" Hesham Youssef, chief of staff for Moussa told Reuters today.

"Those who are accused would stand to be tried within this judiciary system. The individuals that will be facing trial would depend on the investigations that are conducted by the government," he added.

The Arab League official also said that the proceedings can be monitored by the United Nations, Arab League and African Union.

A major problem posed by national

proceedings in Sudan is that the penal code does not include punishment for genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Moreover, Sudanese military officials enjoy immunity from prosecution for acts committed during their course of duty.

The Arab League official appeared optimistic that the proposed plan would resolve the standoff between Khartoum and the ICC.

"In light of all these steps, it is expected that we would be going to the Security Council to ask the Security Council to defer the process initiated by the ICC" Youssef said.

The African Union (AU) yesterday asked the UNSC to invoke article 16 of Rome Statue and suspend any indictment of Sudan's head of state. But the request got cool reception from some members of the UNSC.

The French Ambassador to the UN Jean-Maurice Ripert said that the UNSC "should not interfere with the due process of law in terms of letting the ICC do its work".

"We remind the authorities in Khartoum that they have some obligations and commitments vis-à-vis the UNSC which repeatedly asked for their cooperation with the ICC and it is not too late for them to cooperate" he added.

Sudanese soldiers assault a peacekeeper in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) – The U.N. African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur denounced today a physical attack against a U.N. security officer in El-Fasher, the capital of the North Darfur state.

The peacekeeper was beaten by Sudanese military personal when he was taking pictures in the market where had occurred a road accident involving a UN staff , military vehicle and a taxi on the afternoon of 21 July 2008, the UNAMID said in a statement.

Noureddine Mezni, the spokesperson of the hybrid mission said the Sudanese troops forced the peacekeeper forced into a military vehicle before being taken to a Military base.

He further said that the UNAMID staff in the area tried to intervene to deliver the peacekeeper but in vain.

"UNAMID condemns in the strongest terms such attacks on its staff members, who are here to help bring peace to the people of Darfur." Mezni said.

The UN security officer is presently undergoing treatment for injuries at a UNAMID hospital in El Fasher.

Yesterday the head of the hybrid mission Rudolf Dada said they are determined to accomplish their operation in Darfur despite the recent attacks against the peacekeepers.

Eritrea says ICC accusations against Sudan president is an "insult"

(Sudan Tribune) — The Eritrean government has rejected accusations by the prosecutor of the international Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese president, Omer al-Bashir describing it as an "insult".

"This phenomenon, which can only be interpreted as an "insult", is a manifestation of the harassment that has been accumulating." The Eritrean foreign

ministry said in a statement released today."

Rumbek Correspondent beaten brutally by SPLA soldiers

(Sudan Tribune) — Manyang Mayom, the Sudan Tribune correspondent in Rumbek, was brutally assaulted by some Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers on 20 July, according to an ST website report. It says SPLA soldiers, (former militia from outside the state, mostly neither Arabic or Dinka speakers), stopped Manyang when driving near his home at night. Once he got out of his car and identified himself, according to the report, the soldiers started beating him with their guns. He was subsequently brought by SPLA Rumbek officials to hospital there before doctors decided he should be transferred for further treatment to Khartoum.

Egyptian and Ethiopian troops expected in Darfur by the end of July – envoy

(Sudan Tribune) – The head of the joint mission for Darfur has disclosed that the longtime awaited Egyptian and Ethiopian troops would be deployed in Darfur by the end of this month.

Rudolph Adada met in Khartoum, today, with Arab League Secretary General, Amr Musa, who briefed him on his consultations with President Al Bashir and top Sudanese officials on the Arab initiative to block the possible indictment of the president al-Bashir for genocide crimes in Darfur.

Musa said that the Arab League needs to work closely with the African Union and the United Nations to protect the fragile peace process in Sudan.

Adada told the AL chief that the Hybrid Mission is determined to achieve its

peace mission in the troubled Darfur. He further informed him that Ethiopian and Egyptian battalions are expected by the end of the month.