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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

Local News Headlines

- Foreign Ministry explains Sudan Government's position on UNAMID (All dailies)
- Government anti-ICC campaign continues (state Radio)
- Sudan Ambassador to Arab League: Sudan will not bow to ICC (Al-Khartoum)
- SPLM criticizes attitude towards ICC (Khartoum Monitor)
- Motion submitted to the SC to freeze Ocampo's indictment (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Prospective meeting between Bashir and Salva Kiir (Al Sahfafa)
- SAF Refutes UN officials' accusation, confirms that areas mentioned are under SAF (Sudan Vision)
- SLA (Minnawi) accuses SAF of bombing Karbala area (Al-Ayyam)
- JEM accepts President Bashir's initiative (Akhbar Al Yom)
- President Bashir to visit Ankara (Al-Sahafa)
- SAF and SPLM withdraws from Abyei (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

Websites/International Headlines

- SPLM Kiir to run for president in Sudan 2009 elections (ST)
- Sudan ICC charges concern Mbeki (BBC)
- Darfur Minawi rejects Sudan's fifth census (ST)
- Sudan SPLM to submit proposals to ruling NCP on ICC row (ST)
- Sudan's Malakal gets 21 million US dollars for peace celebrations (ST)

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Highlights

Local news coverage (Arabic and English language press and state Radio)

Daily newspapers reported that the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Al Sadiq has reiterated Sudan Government's commitment to implement SC resolution 1769 for peace in Darfur. He said the Government would continue cooperation with UN and AU to implement the resolution and to achieve peaceful solution for Darfur. "There is no intention to expel UNAMID troops," he said. "President Bashir's visit to UNAMID HQs is an evidence that Sudan Government appreciates UNAMID efforts, there is no intent to expel it," the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mutrif Siddiq told Sudan Media Centre (SMC) yesterday. The Government reportedly stated that UNAMID was not party to Ocampo's allegations.

The **State Radio** broadcast that the Sudan Government continues anti-ICC campaigns. Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdaraf visited Eritrea and Yemen yesterday to convey messages from President Bashir about ICC. Presidential Assistant Qotbi Al Mahdi also visited Lebanon yesterday for the same purpose. Vice President Taha will visit Egypt today and then proceed to Saudi Arabia. Presidents of Eritrea, Yemen and Lebanon have reportedly supported Sudan's position. According to **Al-Wifaq** newspaper the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al

Waseela said Sudanese diplomacy had succeeded in mobilizing the support of 150 countries for Sudan's position against ICC.

"The detention of Karadzic is a message for President Bashir but it is a wrong message," says Sudan Ambassador to the Arab League, Idriss Sulaiman, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. The detention of Karadzic is an attempt to prove absence of double standards so that Arabs agree to hand over President Bashir, he said. "This is a wrong message because detention and handing over of Karadzic was done by the Serbian Government itself which is not the case in Khartoum where the Government declared that it would not hand over its nationals for prosecution abroad," he said.

Khartoum Monitor reported that SPLM has criticized the present attitude of the NCP towards the ICC. The Secretary for Youth Affairs in the SPLM Northern Sector Yen Mathew at a ceremony marking the third anniversary of Dr. John Garang's death on Friday 25 July said efforts condemning the ICC would be better spent on finding a solution. The NCP is fuelling the Darfur problem while the SPLM wants to realize a peaceful and lasting solution, he said. Finding a solution to the Darfur problem should be given a top priority, he said.

Al-Sahafa newspaper reports that SPLM announced it has worked out a roadmap to address the ICC crisis. However, it declined to elaborate until FVP Salva Kiir meets President Bashir to discuss the proposals.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that South Africa

supported by Arab, African and Caribbean groups, submitted a motion to the SC to introduce amendments in a draft resolution tabled before the Council for extending UNAMID mandate in Darfur. The motion calls for inclusion of an item for freezing ICC indictment against the Sudanese President.

Sudan Vision reported that SAF announced that it is not responsible for bombing Darfur areas as reported by UN officials who stated that SAF bombed areas in Tawila (west of El-Fashir), Jebel Moon, and Jebel Marra (Western Darfur). SAF spokesman, Lt. Colonel Khalid Al-Sawarmi confirmed to Sudan Vision that the areas were under SAF control, adding that UN statements were false. Officials from UN stated that government military planes bombed Darfur region west of Al-Fashir in Tawila area.

Minnawi-led SLA has accused SAF of bombing Karbala village (40 km south of El Fasher), according to **Al-Ayyam**. SAF has categorically denied the bombings. UNAMID announced the formation of team to investigate SLA's allegations that SAF bombed areas in Darfur.

Akhbar Al-Yom reported that the London-based Chairman of JEM's Legislative Council Al-Tahir Adam Al Faski said Al-Bashir's initiative for peace in Darfur was acceptable to their movement. He said JEM was ready to free SAF POWs in exchange for freedom of JEM POWs captured during attack on Omdurman. "The ball is now in the Sudan Government's court," he said.

Al-Sahfafa stated that President Bashir would visit Turkey to take part in the African-Turkish summit scheduled to begin on 18 August.

Al-Rai Al-Aam carried a report that the

last units of SAF and SPLA withdrew yesterday from Abyei and were replaced by a JIU battalion. A function was held to mark the withdrawal of the two armies attended by representatives from SAF, SPLA and UN. Speakers emphasized the need for security and peace in the area to help facilitate the return of IDPs.

Website/International news coverage

SPLM Kiir to run for president in Sudan 2009 elections

(Sudan Tribune) — The Arabic Al-Jazeera news channel reported that the chairman of the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) decided to run for president in the upcoming 2009 elections in Sudan. The decision was taken during the meeting of the SPLM political bureau in Juba. Kiir has previously been reluctant to run for president.

Kiir who is also the 1st Vice President of Sudan, has called for suspension of the ICC indictment by the UN Security Council (UNSC). "There is no need rushing to take the Sudanese president to the ICC" Kiir told reporters late on Tuesday during a trip to Uganda.

SPLM has decided that Salva Kiir would be its presidential candidate in the upcoming elections, said SPLM Deputy Secretary General Yassir Arman at press conference yesterday, according to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. He said SPLM would contest elections at all levels including the presidential level.

Sudan ICC charges concern Mbeki

(BBC) South Africa's president has called on the International Criminal Court not to

prosecute Sudan's leader for war crimes in case it upsets Darfur's peace talks.

Thabo Mbeki told South African TV that Omar al-Bashir's continued presence as head of state was also needed to assist the country's post-civil war security.

In an interview with SABC-TV on Friday, President Mbeki said it was important that both the peace process in Darfur and the rebuilding of post-civil war Sudan were not disrupted by the ICC decision. "Both of them require the very active participation of President Bashir," he said.

"I don't know how they would do that if an International Criminal Court says here's a person who has been indicted, because they then must stop interacting with him because this is a wanted criminal, and I don't know how you then implement all of those things," he added.

Darfur Minawi rejects Sudan's fifth census

(Sudan Tribune) — Minni Minawi, the senior Presidential assistant and sole signatory of Darfur Peace Agreement, rejected the latest census and called on the Government to abandon its outcome. Minnawi disappeared for almost two months from Khartoum to protest against the ill implementation of a peace deal to end Darfur conflict that he signed with Khartoum in May 2006. He told Sudan Tribune recently that he was in Umbaro, a town in North Darfur. His long disappearance has prompted speculations that he will suspend participation in the government.

The former rebel leader demanded in a memorandum dated on July 21 to stop the war in Darfur before the census and the organization of the general elections next year.

"We do not recognize the outcome of the (fifth) census which was conducted in April 2008 and we had already expressed our view about the issue."

He also said that a Roadmap for sustainable peace in Darfur and the whole of Sudan implies, the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees after the preparation, with security, plus compensation for damages and losses. He called for adoption of the results of 1993 Census 1993 and to adjust them with the reality of population growth.

Minawi further called to include the DPA in the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of Sudan, and to represent his movement in the different national commissions.

Sudan's Malakal gets US\$ 21 million

(Sudan Tribune) – The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) passed a resolution on Friday earmarking 21 million US dollars to prepare Malakal town, the capital of Upper Nile state, for the next year's celebrations of the 4th anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Last year the GoSS Council of Ministers resolved that the CPA's annual celebrations would be conducted on rotational basis among the ten state capitals of Southern Sudan as a way of supporting the state governments with peace dividend projects.

The CPA celebrations committee headed by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Dr. Luka Tombekana Manoja has chosen Malakal town to be the next host for the 4th anniversary celebrations on 9th January 2009.

The 21 million dollars budget will cater for

operational and developmental activities that will include accommodation, renovation of some existing infrastructures as well as building some new ones in the town for the next four to five months before the dateline.

These infrastructures include construction of 10kms paved roads inside Malakal town, building of a Presidential Villa and Guest House to accommodate VIPs delegates, renovation of the Malakal Football Stadium as well as construction of modern TV studio, among others.

Upper Nile state government is expected to contribute 6.5 million US dollars towards Malakal's celebrations.