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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

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

Warrant would impact UN – Taha

“If a warrant of arrest is issued against President Bashir that will have catastrophic effects on the security situations and stability not only in Sudan but also in the entire region and necessarily the UN presence in the country as well as Sudan relations with the international organization,” Vice President Taha told the media, after meeting the Egyptian President yesterday, according to **Sudan TV**. He commended Arab and African countries, the OIC and the Caribbean and Pacific groups for supporting Sudan’s position on ICC. Taha was in Egypt to convey a message from President Bashir to President Mubarak about Sudan’s diplomatic and legal efforts to confront ICC allegations.

Taha on Kiir’s candidacy

Taha also told the media that the SPLM’s announcement of its presidential candidate reflected the right of any Sudanese national to contest presidential elections or any public position in accordance with the constitution and the elections law, reported **Al-Wifaq**.

Al-Ayyam newspaper reported that Taha told media in Cairo that Egypt was considering hosting an international

conference to resolve the Darfur crisis and to block anti-Sudan movements.

Al-Sudani newspaper carried a report that SPLM has announced that it would launch a massive elections campaign soon across the country to win the coming elections. SPLM said the decision for Salva Kiir to contest forthcoming presidential elections had nothing to do with ICC crisis. SPLM Deputy Secretary General Yassir Armand said the SPLM’s focus was to resolve Darfur problem and to win forthcoming elections.

FM meets SRSG

State Radio reported that Foreign Minister Deng Alor met on Sunday with the Special Representative of the Secretary General to the Sudan Ashraf Qazi. At the meeting, the FM reiterated Sudan’s firm commitment to the signed agreement with regard to the peacekeeping operation in the troubled region of Darfur. He dismissed reports about possible expulsion of UN from Sudan. the SRSG stressed the importance of cooperation between the Sudan Government and UN.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reported that FM Deng Alor has conveyed French-British written proposals to President Bashir about recent ICC developments. The FM declined to elaborate. However, he said the proposals were good and would be studied by the authorities concerned.

The paper also reported the FM’s meeting

with SRSG Ashraf Qazi on the status of UNMIS. "I have confirmed to Qazi that the government is committed to cooperate with UN within the framework of signed agreement," he said. "UNAMID has no connection with ICC," he added. According to the FM, SRSG Qazi emphasized the importance of implementing the CPA. Qazi who stressed the need to respect the signed agreements, also discussed a range of other issues including Abyei roadmap.

Parties to support Bashir

The newspaper also quoted Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as saying that three political parties have decided that Bashir would be their presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. However, he did not name the three parties. Nafie was speaking at the NCP conference in Wad Medani yesterday. Nafie also accused Britain and France of being behind Ocampo's allegations.

Website/International news coverage

Egypt's Mubarak reaffirms his support to Sudan's Bashir vs ICC

(Sudan Tribune) — President Hosni Mubarak reaffirmed today the support of the Egyptian government to the Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir after his indictment by the ICC prosecutor. The

Egyptian President held talks on Sunday morning with visiting Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha on the current dispute between Sudan and the ICC, and preparation for a comprehensive conference to settle Darfur crisis.

Afterwards, Taha told reporters he had handed over a message from Sudanese President al-Bashir to Mubarak stating that the "alleged accusations are baseless and refuted by the by the facts on the ground"

"A Fact-finding committee sent by the UN Security Council to Sudan in 2004 and all the delegations that visited the region, including the Arab League fact-finding and a committee set up by the national government did not refer to a case of genocide as stated in the allegations of the ICC Prosecutor," Taha said.

It was necessary, he said, to give priority to settlement of the conflict, and then to "punish those who caused the outbreak of the war and its consequences." It is not possible to "try individuals while tension still exists and fighting continues."

Noting the Sudanese government is keen on implementing the rule of law in Darfur, Taha said Sudan's national tribunals would maintain their job as agreed during the visit by Arab League chief Amr Musa to Khartoum.

Darfur peacekeepers must do better – Darfur consortium report

(AFP) — UN peacekeepers in Darfur, despite being severely under-equipped and under-manned, can and must do far more to protect civilians in the war-torn Sudanese region, aid groups said in a report Monday. The joint UN-African Union force known as UNAMID is "in danger of becoming the world's latest broken promise," said the report by the Darfur Consortium, a coalition of more

than 40 aid groups operating in Africa.

This is because the Sudanese government is failing to let it deploy fully, because the UN and the African Union have not given it their full political backing, and because donor countries have not fulfilled their pledges to support the mission, the report said.

But despite this, the force, which has shown "some small examples of the positive impact it could have in improving lives in Darfur," could be doing a lot more while it waits for its full deployment, said the Darfur Consortium.

The report said that "while UNAMID does not have the capacity to respond to large-scale fighting, it must begin to respond forcibly to the daily, smaller attacks on civilians." It should begin accompanying men and women to protect them from attack when they go looking for firewood or to markets. It must also "increase UNAMID presence across Darfur, expand patrols inside and outside of (displaced people) camps," the report urged.

The consortium urged donor countries to back their pledges and deploy the troops they promised and asked the UN and the AU to give the force their full political backing, and requested Khartoum to allow deployment. It said that "donor countries must provide the necessary basic equipment, including 18 transport helicopters, at least four more tactical helicopters, and six transport vehicles."

UN officials said Friday that Sudan government planes had bombed Darfur this week despite a highly publicised peace pledge from Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir during a visit to the region.

Three Darfur rebel groups split from UN-sponsored front

(Sudan Tribune) — Three Darfur rebel

group have walked out of the coalition created after talks in Juba that were sponsored by the former U.N. AU mediators earlier this year. The defectors said the front failed to achieve its objectives.

Adam Ali Shoggar, Khamis Abdella Abakr and Ibrahim al-Zubaidi, announced their withdrawal from the United Resistance Front (URF) in a joint press statement. They claimed their former partners sought to sabotage their leadership within their own organisations. They also said that the front's leadership had failed to meet its deadline for a total merger of the five groups. Some leaders had used the trial period "to implement their own agenda", they claimed.

The URF consisted of: Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM) of Khamis Abakr, SLM-Field Leadership led by Adam Bakheit, the Movement for National Reformation and Development (MNRD) led by Jibril Abdel-Karim, the United Revolutionary Front led by Ibrahim al-Zubaidi, and the Justice and Equality Movement (collective leadership) led by Bahar Idriss Abu Garda who is also the chief of the URF.

In a statement yesterday, Abu Garda said preparations had been completed for a general conference of the URF but that it had been agreed to delay it to September to allow further consultations among members inside and outside the country. He also said they want to achieve progress with regard to the ongoing dialogues with other rebel movements "to achieve a greater unity."

Two delegations -- SLM Unity-Command led by Abdelalla Yahya Ahmed and URF led by Bahar Idriss Abu Garda -- agreed on 1 June in Tripoli to unite within a month.

Yesterday, Ali Shoggar, one of the breakaway leaders, told the Sudan

Tribune by phone that they now want to focus their efforts on reunification of the former SLM factions. He said they intended to meet with the SLM founder Abdel Wahid al-Nur. According to Shoggar, Jibril Abdel-Karim, the leader of the NRD, is poised to follow them in their move.

Former rebels say Sudan army attacked their positions in Darfur

(Reuters) — Former Darfur rebels on Sunday accused Sudan's army of a second attack on their forces since President Omar Hassan al-Bashir called for a new initiative for peace. On Sunday, Minni Arcua Minawi's Sudan Liberation Movement claimed the army had attacked one of their police posts in North Darfur, killing four troops, before conducting search operations in nearby villages. Sudan's army denied the report.

"Some 36 vehicles from the army attacked our post and killed four soldiers before searching and torturing civilians in seven villages we were protecting," Minawi's military spokesman Mohamed Dirbeen told Reuters.

The latest alleged attack happened more than 100 km (60 miles) south of el-Fasher. "This is a very serious military escalation ... and at the same time Bashir is calling for peace," Dirbeen added.

Sudan's army said they regularly conducted "administrative operations" along that route but denied any attack on Minawi's forces. "This is not true — our only work there is accompanying trade and civilian convoys," an army spokesman said.

Minawi's group, the only Darfur rebel group to sign a May 2006 peace deal with Khartoum, said on Friday that as Bashir called on all forces to join a new peace process during a visit to the region last

week, his planes bombed villages and killed three people.

UNAMID said it would be mobilising its limited air resources to investigate the report. Heavy rain has made much of the region impassable by road. "UNAMID is going to set up a joint team to verify the situation on the ground," said UNAMID spokesman Nouredine Mezni.

Sudan's Bashir receives British and French proposals to end ICC crisis

(Sudan Tribune) — Sudan's foreign minister disclosed that he has submitted British and French proposal to President Bashir regarding the ICC indictment process. Deng Alor visited Paris and London last week. The two countries urged Sudan to cooperate with the ICC and to hand over the two suspects wanted by the court for a first case on crimes against humanity and war crimes. They also requested that Khartoum facilitate the deployment of Darfur peacekeepers and quickly find a political solution for the conflict in the war torn area.

Alor said he informed al-Bashir of the propositions but declined to elaborate on it saying "they should remain confidential for the time being." "In my assessment, these proposals are good and they would be disclosed in a timely manner," he added. Alor also pointed out that in order to bring the crisis to an end, the government needs to provide certain things and they submitted specific ideas about that.

This week Sudan accused France and Britain of lobbying against a Libyan proposal to include a paragraph that mentions the possibility of invoking Article 16 of the ICC Statue regarding the authority of the UNSC to suspend its work on a case. The inclusion was going to be

in a resolution extending the mandate of UN-African Union hybrid force (UNAMID) in Darfur which ends on 31 July.

U.N. pledge to support return of Abyei displaced

(Sudan Tribune) — The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) hailed the withdrawal of the northern and southern Sudan armies from Abyei and pledged to help for the repatriation of the displaced area.

In a roadmap reached on June 8, to allow the quick return of the displaced population of Abyei after May fighting, the two peace partners the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) agreed to deploy a battalion of 700 soldiers on equal parts from SAF and SPLA and to withdraw the troops of the former foes.

The withdrawal of the two armies was confirmed by the Commander of the Brigade 31 in Abyei, Brigadier Osman Ali Jarnal, and the Commander of the JIUs in Abyei, Brigadier Doc Valentino, who said that the integrated units will provide security and prepare for the displaced return.

The Regional Coordinator of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, David Gressly, told the UN-sponsored Radio Miraya that the UN and the other humanitarian agencies will help in repatriating the displaced people back to their areas after the deployment of the police force.

The UN coordinator hailed the pull-out of SAF and the SPLA saying it is a step forward for the deployment of the joint police forces to the area.

According to the roadmap, the return of the displaced population had to start by the end of June. Also a joint interim administration is still not formed.