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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **Expelled US aid groups in talks over Darfur**

**Reuters** 9/6/09 - Three US aid groups expelled from Sudan three months ago are in talks to send new teams back into the country, relief workers said yesterday.

Mercy Corps, an Oregon-based group which had large operations in Darfur and the volatile Abyei region claimed by both north and south Sudan, said it was discussing sending in new teams under the flag of Mercy Corps Scotland, an affiliated Edinburgh-based charity.

"There are ongoing negotiations with the Sudanese government, but nothing has been finalized as yet," said a spokesman for Mercy Corps Scotland. "We're hopeful an agreement can be reached as soon as possible."

Several aid sources said the expelled U.S. operations of CARE and Save the Children were also in talks with officials to bring new teams into north Sudan, via branches of their organizations affiliated to other countries.

The fate of the other expelled INGOs, including Oxfam GB and the French and Dutch arms of Medecins Sans Frontieres, is still unclear, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Officials from the Khartoum government's Humanitarian Aid Commission were not immediately available for comment.

The United Nations' humanitarian chief John Holmes told **Reuters** he was aware of the negotiations involving the U.S. aid groups, calling it a "practical way forward".

"The government made clear that while they couldn't reverse the decision they had taken to expel the 13 international NGOs, if NGOs turned up with new names and new logos they had the possibility to be welcomed back again," Holmes said.

"Some of them are taking advantage of that and discussing how exactly that would work."

A CARE official declined comment because of the sensitivity of the issue. Save the Children officials were not immediately available for comment.

"The Sudanese government has understood that the scale of needs is extreme in the part of the country," said a Western aid worker. "It realizes it needs outside help."

## **Sudan urges international support to general election**

**ST/local dailies** report Sudan urged yesterday the international community to contribute to the success of the electoral process in the country that is expected to begin next February.

NEC President Abel Alier said yesterday that the cost of the next year election is estimated at about 1.1 billion dollars.

During a briefing to ambassadors and representatives of regional and international organizations, yesterday the head of the NEC urged foreign governments and organizations to contribute to the success of the electoral process.

Abel spoke about the NEC efforts to hold the elections, stressing the importance of the next phase in the history of Sudan. He also underlined the need for concerted regional and international efforts in addition to national efforts to achieve democratic transformation.

The Sudanese official further said that the electoral body exercises its duties based on three basic sources that are: the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Interim Constitution, and the law of elections.

He also talked about the process of regional and international supervision of elections in all stages until the announcement of the results.

### **Sudan faces election delay**

**Reuters** 10/6/09 - Parliamentary and presidential elections, Sudan's first democratic national vote in more than 20 years, could face a fresh delay after already being pushed back to February next year, a senior Sudanese official said.

The deputy chairperson of the National Elections Commission, Abdullah Ahmed Abdulla, told **Reuters** the commission was behind schedule because of delays in announcing results of a vital census and in setting up election committees in states.

"We are considering a modification, an adjustment of our old timeframe to accommodate the delays that have taken place," Abdulla said on Tuesday, adding it would "not be very much of a delay".

Abdulla did not suggest any new timeframe but said voter registration - originally set for June - would now likely start in November after disruptive rains have finished.

"Some of the intervals and the stages are dictated by law so you cannot accelerate the stages," he added.

### **Communist Party to contest presidential elections**

**Al-Akhbar** reports the Communist Party Politburo member Suleiman Hamid as saying that the Party has decided to contest all levels of elections including the presidential elections. However, he said his party had not yet named a presidential candidate.

### **GoNU members receive referendum bill**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports that the NCP yesterday handed over copies of the referendum bill to GoNU members for consideration. GoNU Political Parties chairman Mudawi Al-Turabi told a meeting yesterday that a committee was set up to harmonize the views of the political parties on the bill. He said the referendum bill not only concerns the two Partners but the entire political forces since it would decide Sudan's destiny. He added that the referendum bill is the most crucial law which requires consensus before it is submitted to the NEC.

### **Khartoum denies terrorist cells**

**Al-Ahdath** reports the MFA has dismissed allegations by the SLM (unity) that the government imported terrorist cells for use in Darfur. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said the charges constitute an attempt to justify refusal to participate in international and regional initiatives aiming at resolving Darfur crisis. "Talk about forming terrorist cells is unfounded," he said.

### **Measures taken to avert electoral violence – Police DG**

**Al-Sahafa** reports police DG Lt. Gen. Hashim Osman Al-Husseini has said upcoming election is

a key challenge for police, saying it requires security at all stages. He said elections-related threats could include violence, adding police forces are ready for the worst eventualities.

### **Over 2000 Mujahideen to be graduated Monday**

**Akhbar Al Youm** reports President Al-Bashir, Defence Minister, state officials, civil service leaders, Joint Chiefs of Staff and PDF leaders will attend next Monday a graduation ceremony of more than 2,000 PDF Mujahideen. Khartoum State PDF Coordinator Al-Jaili Al-Tayeb Ali told **SUNA** that the PDF are trained as part of effort to defend the President of the Republic.

### **President Bashir to inaugurate Ethanol Factory in White Nile**

**Miraya FM** 10/6/09 - President Al-Bashir will inaugurate today in the White Nile State the Ethanol Factory of Kenana Sugar Company. The factory is considered the First of its kind in Africa, with an annual production capacity of sixty five million liters and will gradually increase to two hundred million within the coming two years. With the cost of forty Million US dollars the factory is expected to boost many industries.

Ethanol is known as the green fuel from corn, sun flower, grains and other agricultural waste. It is a colorless volatile liquid that burns with a blue flame.

Ethanol had been used as a source of energy and light since the nineteen century.

After the increase in oil prices the world started to give ethanol more attention as alternative source energy.

It is used as fuel for cars and enters in many chemical industries and laboratory experiments. In terms of environment ethanol is friendly to the ecosystem.

### **Botswana says Sudan's Bashir will be arrested if he visits**

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/6/09 – The government of Botswana announced yesterday that it would arrest Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir if he visits its territory. Botswana is a member of the ICC.

The foreign minister of Botswana Phandu Skelemani told the **BBC** that his country has legal duty to help ensure the appearance of Bashir before the court. The president of Botswana Ian Khama was reported to have told his Tanzanian counterpart in May that his government supported the arrest warrant. Botswana is the second country in Africa to publicly announce that it will apprehend Bashir if he visits. Last month South African officials warned Bashir against traveling to attend President Jacob Zuma's inauguration ceremony or else he will face arrest.

### **\$ 816 m Federal Transfers to TDRA – Finance Minister**

**Sudan Vision** reports federal minister of finance Awad Al-Jaz told the National Assembly yesterday that federal money transferred during 2008 and 2009 in favor of Transitional Darfur Regional Authority amounted to \$ 816 million.

### **1500 people return home in Darfur, ask for more security**

**Sudan Tribune website** 8/6/09 – Some 1500 returnees to a village in South Darfur met a peacekeeping official yesterday, telling him that they would like more protection so that others can return home.

The villagers in Donki Dreisa, some 60 kilometers south of Nyala, met with UNAMID DJSR

Henry Anyidoho. An estimated 1500 residents have returned home to Donki Dreisa from various refugee camps in Darfur over the past month.

"Some of the returnees had lived away from the village for four years before returning home over the past month," noted a press statement from UNAMID about the meeting, which took place between Anyidoho and several umdas (traditional leaders).

The returnees told the peacekeeping official that they and other internal refugees would like more protection so they can return to villages such as Donki Dreisa.

Overall the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Darfur rose throughout 2008 to over 1.4 million, according to figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs.

The DJSR and the delegation also visited UNAMID troops stationed near Muhageria, the scene of deadly clashes earlier this year.

yesterday the UNAMID Deputy Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Duma Dumisani Mduyana, visited the troops based near Zam Zam, the massively overcapacity camp that was the destination of most of those who fled in February 2009.

Mduyana also visited Um Kadada, a town in North Darfur. The visits are designed to familiarize the new commander with the region since he assumed his duties at the end of last month. Earlier this week he traveled to El Geneina and Zalingei in West Darfur and met with troops stationed there.

### **Saudi airliner tyres blast, airport partially closed**

**Local dailies** report Khartoum Airport official as saying that tyres of a Saudi cargo airplane exploded while landing yesterday at Khartoum Airport, no casualties reported. Khartoum Airport was partially closed for six hours.

### **African countries back away from ICC withdrawal demand**

**Sudan Tribune website** 8/6/09 – More than 30 African countries which are members of the ICC have failed to agree on a mass withdrawal from the court during their meetings in the Ethiopian capital.

The proposed move was to be in a protest of an arrest warrant issued by the ICC for Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir last March in connection with war crimes committed in Darfur.

Furthermore African politicians accuse the court of unfairly targeting its statesmen while not looking at human rights abuses elsewhere.

Sudan has lobbied African countries to withdraw their ratification of the treaty as a show of solidarity while some Sudanese officials have said that they hope such action would weaken The Hague based court.

But the meetings that convened in Addis Ababa this week to discuss withdrawal took a different turn when most African countries favored asking the UN Security Council (UNSC) to suspend the case against Bashir instead of un signing the Rome Statute.

"They will reach a consensus and ask for the warrant against al-Bashir to be deferred for some

time,” a diplomat told **Reuters**. “But an en masse withdrawal will not happen,” he added.

Diplomats told Reuters only Libya, Senegal, Djibouti and the Comoros had lobbied their peers for a withdrawal from the court.

It is likely that African ICC members are more concerned about the risk of losing access to millions of dollars in aid from the European Union (EU) as some bilateral agreement link it to ratification of the Rome Statute.

### **Soft copy of Sima Samar’s report received**

**Akhir Lahza** reports it has received an electronic copy of the report of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Sudan Sima Samar on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. The paper said the soft copy was sent to it by Sima Samar. In the report, which will be submitted to the SC, she spoke about the positive developments with regard to the approval of the protocol on rights of persons with disabilities, endorsement of the human rights commission Act as well as the positive provisions in the Child Act and prohibition of the female circumcision.

### **Salva Kiir withdraws a presidential decree on appointment**

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/6/09 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a presidential decree reversing his earlier decree on the appointment of Longechuk county commissioner in Upper Nile state.

Kiir issued the decree on 8th June relieving the Commissioner of Longechuk County, Mr. Chambang Both Kach.

Mr. Chambang was appointed last week, replacing Mr. Stephen Pal, and his relief has come in just one week before he could take oath of office.

Members of Longechuk County in Juba have presented a petition to President Kiir explaining that the appointment of the new commissioner, whom they said was an Ethiopian, was done without consultations with the grass-root.

“The appointment of Mr. Chambang Both caught Longechuk Community worldwide by surprise. We wonder how your Excellency reached that conclusion- the appointment of an Ethiopian who has just started living in the Sudan last year for medical treatment. After he completed his medical treatment, his cousin, advised him not to return to Ethiopia, i.e., to look for a job in Juba,” asserted the petition.

The petition accused Mr. Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, the Government of Southern Sudan’s Head of Mission in Washington, DC, among other few officials, of allegedly exercising nepotism in recommending the appointee to the President. “We realized you made this decree because someone had deceived you. And that deceiver is Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, the Ethiopian serving as the GoSS Head of Mission in Washington D.C.,” asserted the county citizens.

The reasons they cited for disqualifying the new appointed commissioner include “1. He is an Ethiopian who has utilized the position of his cousin - the GOSS Head of Mission in Washington D.C., 2. The citizens of Longechuk County were not consulted, and 3. Mr. Chambang has no political or military capability to lead us.”

Neither new appointment, nor reinstatement of former commissioner before Mr. Chambang, has been decreed by the President to replace him.

## **Three die of Cholera in Northern Bahr al Ghazal**

**Miraya FM** 9/6/09 - Three persons infected with Cholera died, while 16 others are still being treated in hospitals in Northern Bahr Al Ghazal State. The State minister of Health, Angoi Akot Akot, told **Miraya FM** that Cholera is spreading very fast in many parts of the state.

He further warns of a health crisis if the situation is not quickly maintained. Akot pointed out that the state authorities have closed all schools and warned of public gatherings in the places where the disease is detected, to prevent it from spreading.

Akot urged NGOs and international and local health authorities to provide a helping hand.

## **Ugandan police inspector general visits S. Sudan capital**

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/6/09– Aiming to head off crime and insecurity in the border region, the Ugandan Inspector General of Police yesterday visited the President of the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba.

At his office in the southern capital, President Salva Kiir Mayardit welcomed a delegation from Uganda comprised of senior police officers, according to an official source.

Major General Kale Kayihura, leading the Ugandan delegation, discussed areas of cooperation in fighting crimes and ensuring safety and security between southern Sudan and Uganda.

According to Kayihura's press statement made shortly after the meeting, the visit was designed to follow up on implementation of the security agreement between Uganda and Southern Sudan to keep movement of traders between Juba and Kampala safe, and to eradicate criminal activities of abducting and looting people's properties on the roads.

Reportedly, the consulate of Uganda in Southern Sudan and the GoSS Mission in Uganda will work to develop mechanisms for jointly combating crime.