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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

739 Abyei IDPs to repatriate to original villages

Sudan Media Centre (**SMC website**) reports Abyei Area executive committee Secretary Diang Deng Agok said repatriation of the first batch of about 739 IDPs from the northern state to Abyei area will begin today. He said the returnees would gather at Jebel Awlia area before starting the journey for Abyei where they would officially be received by Abyei area administrator on Friday, adding that the repatriation is funded by GoSS. Agok estimates Abyei citizens living in northern state to be 3000 persons. He said the next batch would be repatriated early next year.

National electoral laws not in conformity with CPA and NIC – GoSS official

The Citizen reports GoSS Minister of legal Affairs and Constitutional Development Michael Makuei told the southern Sudan Legislative Assembly yesterday that urgent amendments were needed to the 2009 electoral laws in order to conform to the CPA and the interim National Constitution (INC).

Makuei said key portions concerning national security and freedom of press were not consistent with the CPA and the INC and required immediate amendment. He said three months after the passing of the elections act; the elections commission had not yet been formed.

Trade Unions to hand over memo of protest to UN against US attack on Syria

Ray Al-Shaab reports trade unions and civil society organizations decided at a meeting yesterday to stage a demonstration on Thursday to hand over a memo of protest to UN HQ in Khartoum against US attack on Syria.

Foreign Minister Meets visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

SUNA reports Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, yesterday met with the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer for discussion on a range of issues including hybrid deployment, Darfur peace process and CPA implementation especially border demarcation and Abyei area issue. Speaking to press after the meeting Alor said he did not expect change in the American policy toward Sudan, adding the coming US president could have a new method of dealing but the policy of the United States is stable.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Frazer described her meetings with the Sudanese officials as “constructive”. She said normalization of relations is important for the two countries, adding US Administration has opened channels of contacts with Khartoum. She said America intimated its intention to UN to support the hybrid operation and denied Washington’s connection with the ICC and its decisions.

Bashir, Kaddafi, Debby Summit Discusses Sudan-Chad Relations

Sudan Vision reports the African Facts Finding Committee Chairman, Ex-Burundi President, Piere Pion, revealed that Sudanese, Chadian and Libyan foreign ministers will shortly meet to prepare for a presidential summit to address Sudanese-Chadian relations deadlock.

Piere Pion released the above information after his meeting with the MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddig. He added that the two countries will start as from today to restore diplomatic ties. The fact-finding committee was set up by AU during the African summit of Sharam-el-Sheikh in Egypt to address differences between Sudan and Chad.

According to *Akhbar Al Youm*, resumption of diplomatic relations between Khartoum and N'djamena scheduled to take place today has been postponed for next week, at the request of Chad.

Fidail Movement of Southern Kordofan kidnapped Chinese –Interior Minister
The Citizen reports Minister of Interior, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, addressing the Council of States yesterday, said the Chinese oil workers were kidnapped by a group of 35 persons who belong to Fidail Movement, a JEM branch. The Minister warned that lack of development in Southern Kordofan might lead to more dangerous and negative consequences in the region.

Websites/International News Coverage

Senior U.S. official visits Sudan for peace

(Sudan Tribune website) U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer is in Khartoum, Sudan, discussing peace process with leaders of the country, the State Department said on yesterday.

Frazer "is meeting with Sudanese government officials talking about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as Darfur," State Department deputy spokesman Robert Wood said at a routine news briefing. What they are talking about are "important issues." "We want the situation improve on the ground," Wood said.

US offers to airlift up to 4,000 African peacekeepers to Darfur

(Associated Press) — The U.S. envoy for Africa said yesterday that Washington was ready to airlift as many as 4,000 peacekeepers, including Ethiopians and Egyptians, for the joint U.N.-African Union mission to Darfur.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer, who arrived here from a trip to Congo, said the Sudanese government has made "important progress" recently in speeding up the deployment of the peacekeepers.

"There has been important progress," Frazer said. "But we are looking to get at least 3,000 to 4,000 (peacekeepers) in Darfur. We certainly have offered the U.N. to help do airlift if they need to bring in both troops and to move equipment."

After Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir was accused of genocide in Darfur in July, authorities here eased some procedures including issuing visas for promised troops. The move was an apparent response to Western demands for cooperation with the international community.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor said the U.S. offer to help ferry more troops and equipment into Darfur was first made in September, during Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha visit to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

Alor said his government welcomed the U.S. airlift which he expects to take place soon.

"I was told anytime from now they will start transporting equipment for Ethiopian and Egyptian troops," Alor told The Associated Press.

Chadian envoy's arrival to Sudan postponed till next week

(**BBC**) Sudan's ambassador to Ndjamena, Abdallah Al-Shaykh told the BCC by phone that Preparations to restore diplomatic representation between Sudan and Chad have taken major steps through regional and international efforts.

He said the resumption of relations between the two countries is important to Sudan and Chad and we always say the basis of these relations should be unceasing and developed for the interests of the peoples of the two brotherly countries. As you know, the leaders of the two countries responded to the calls of fraternal Arab and African leaders and the two countries agreed to exchange ambassadors and restore diplomatic relations since the beginning of August. Since then, I have been personally involved in this issue and a new diplomatic body has been set up for the mission which includes diplomats, administrators and technicians, and we have completed the financial and administrative arrangements.

Libya made intensive efforts to set Tuesday 4 November as the date in which the Chadian mission, headed by Bahr-al-Din Harun, would arrive in Khartoum on a special Libyan plane. The Sudanese mission was also supposed to leave on the same plane. However the date was postponed yesterday till next week following a request by the Chadian leadership. You know that the resumption of relations will help resolve the Darfur issue and will also push forward the efforts of the Sudanese government to bring about reconciliation between the Chadian government and its opposition, the armed movements.

Britain supports Qatari efforts to host Darfur talks

(**Sudan Tribune website**) British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who was touring the Gulf states during the week end and his Qatari counterpart, Sheik Hamad bin Jassem Al Thani, issued a statement Sunday calling on all the Sudanese parties to engage in the Qatar bid to host the peace talks.

Consultations are under way to set a date for the conference. But Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Ahmed bin Abdallah al-Mahmoud, has cautioned that the peace talks would need good preparation to succeed.

Malloch-Brown, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, told the press in Doha "The UK is committed to securing a lasting peace settlement in Darfur. We welcome all constructive initiatives towards that end, under the overall leadership of the United Nations/African Union joint chief mediator D'jibril Bassole whose work we strongly support."

The minister further said "We hope the initiative proposed by Qatar for a peace conference can make a positive contribution to these efforts with the participation of all relevant actors."

Sudan's Al-Mirghani to return home after 15 years for burial of his brother

(**Sudan Tribune website**) The leader of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani would return to Khartoum on Wednesday with the body of his young brother Ahmed.

The body of the late Sudanese president Ahmed Al-Mirghani will be flown to Khartoum for burial on Wednesday. He died in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria on Sunday.

The DUP leader, who left Sudan in 1993, would return to Khartoum after 15 years of absence. He would stay only for a very short time and would return to Cairo after the burial of his brother.

Despite the signing of a peace agreement on the democratic transition in the country with the Sudanese government, Al-Mirghani still demands Khartoum to implement an accord dealing mainly with the suppression of anti-democratic laws and to reform the public service and the army.

The Cairo Agreement signed on June 18, 2005 is sponsored by Egyptian government; however Cairo has proven its incapacity to press Khartoum for the implementation of the deal.

The Sudanese government sent a special plane to Egypt to bring back the body of Ahmed Al-Mirghani, 67. He will be buried on Wednesday at the Sayed Ali al-Mirghani grand mosque in Khartoum North, across the river from the presidential palace.

Ahmed Al-Mirghani was the latest democratic head of state in the Sudan. He was unseated from his position when the Islamist officers led by Omer Hassan Al-Bashir toppled a democratically elected government in June 1989.

Bor commences construction of prison and police buildings

(Sudan Tribune website) UN agencies implementing construction of Jonglei police and prison stations, funded by Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and Multi-Donor Trust (MDT) have started work at the sites.

UN, contractors, police and prison officials say the structures will be according to the “world standard” and the prison will mean school of oriented citizens.

The project is part of GoSS’ Rule of Law Program which encompasses capacity building and infrastructural development in all states and co-funded by MDT. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) are the implementers as Everest Ltd and RA International merge as contractors for police headquarters and prison respectively.

UNOPS official Peter Ooko told reporters yesterday at Hongnom de Mach-thii (site of constructions & 6km east of Bor Town) that, local people’s hospitality and government cooperation will speed-up the first phase – two month constructions. “We have good atmosphere here with local population than we experienced in other states,” Ooko said.

RA International, tasked to build 4 meters (tall) and 60cm (thick) wall for the prison in an area prison officer say is 1 km square, pledges for best results, dodging alleged foreign contractors’ home ousted class. “We shall try to comply with the required quality,” Henry Tabbilos, the RA International chief engineer said. Everest Ltd coordinator Levis Kimorosh, concur that conditions are fairly perfect for timely completion.

To be relieved is Prison force where inmates are kept in congested-collapsing cells, built quite earlier before Sudan’s independence (around 1940s). Criminals have either being breaking jails or [their] health severely endangered while serving their sentence, Sgt. Arem Alier, a prison license officer said.

He added that many prisoners remain in various Counties of Jonglei state, making trails and court proceeding difficult. “This will ease our work and produce change citizens. We shall provide vocational training for inmates in order to opt for better style of maintaining living,” Alier affirmed.

Police and prison renovations and/or construction have been fronted by GoSS recently to combat rampant recycling of criminals in Southern Sudan society. Ravaged by decades of wars and isolation from Khartoum government, Bor prison fall under construction rather renovations.

From administrative buildings, government residential areas, schools and hospital, roads and basis water supply within Jonglei capital, Bor acquired a city status 3-years ago [like other Southern Sudan cities] and indeed born after GoSS took control in 2005. Prison and police constructions stations could take the first ever constructed permanent structure laid by government since January 1, 1956.

The referral prison center shall have boundary wall, general office, five guard towers and kitchen erected in two months [if conditions are constant] according to UNOPS official.

Links

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