

Date 13 Nov 2008

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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Local News Headlines

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- UNAMID requested license for live ammunition exercises - SAF (**Dailies**)
- SPLM calls for the release of Darfur detainees (**Khartoum Monitor**)
- Parliament to receive list of members of Parties Council and Elections Commission on Monday (**Ajras Al-Hurriah**)
- UNMIS welcomes the swearing in of Abyei Administration members (**Dailies**)
- GoSS agrees to registration of southern NGOs by the centre (**Ray Al Shaab**)
- Constitutional court halts execution of death sentence against chief editor assassins (**Dailies**)
- Sudanese rebels, opposition party to meet along borders with Chad (**SMC**)

## Websites/International Headlines

- Ban welcomes Sudanese ceasefire, plan to disarm militias (**UN News Service**)
- Rights group: Egypt must stop shooting at migrants (**AP**)
- IFC explores investment opportunities in Southern Sudan (**Xinhua**)
- GoSS Ministry of Legal Affairs introduces Land Bill for debate (**Miraya FM**)
- No casualties reported during students protests in Juba (**Miraya FM**)

## Link

**Sudanese president calls ceasefire in Darfur.** [Analysis].

<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-11-12RRGA-7LBNFA>

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# Highlights

## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Al-Bashir Announces unconditional ceasefire in Darfur*

**Local dailies** report President Bashir, addressing a wrap-up session of the Sudanese People's Initiative Forum yesterday, announced important decisions which include immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Darfur between SAF and armed movements provided that an effective monitoring mechanism is in place and observed by all involved parties, stopping all media campaigns up to the end of the current year, agreement to the principle of personal and collective compensations in Darfur and provision of protection to IDP. The President also declared commitment to enable UNAMID to carry out its mission, commitment to negotiations, commitment to achieve justice through supporting its institutions, to encourage local reconciliation and to disarm all parties after the security arrangements with rebels are implemented. He also agreed to increase the number of Darfur states provided a committee will be set up to submit study in this regard, agreed to set up "blood money fund" with an initial capital of SDG 100 million, to drill 685 boreholes and to set up 45 hospitals and health centres in Darfur during 2009, to establish 139 schools and to rehabilitate agricultural schemes in the region.

President has appreciated the efforts exerted by Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Senegal and Tanzanian to address Darfur issue. He also welcomed and confirmed confidence in the Arab-African initiative headed by Qatar and the efforts by UN-AU mediator Bassole.

According to **Akhbar Al Youm**, GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong commenting on why FVP Kiir was absent from the closing session said Kiir was at Juba Airport waiting to be flown to Khartoum to take part in the wrap-up session of the People's of Sudan Initiative Forum but he was surprised by the fact that a commercial not a presidential aircraft was sent to fly him to Khartoum. He said GoSS decided that Kiir, who had cancelled all his engagements including south-south dialogue to participate in the forum closing session, should not travel aboard that plane.

"The challenge lies in implementing the recommendations of the forum," says US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez, according to **Al-Sahafa** newspaper.

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports SLA (Unity Faction) issued a statement rejecting the ceasefire declared by President Bashir in the absence of official negotiations to decide mechanisms. It also rejected the People of Sudan Initiative on the grounds it was not intended for the resolution of Darfur problem. The statement said autonomy for Darfur is a key demand for the Movement.

Also, JEM questioned seriousness of the initiative. JEM official Suleiman Sandal said JEM would not ceasefire and emphasized the need for a framework agreement before ceasefire. "Do you want us to ceasefire for free," Sandal wonders.

**Akhir Lahza** states MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has criticized JEM rejection of President Bashir's ceasefire declaration. He urged the international community to keep it promise to punish movements obstructing the peace process.

### ***UNAMID requested license for live ammunition exercises - SAF***

**Local dailies** report SAF spokesman office said UNAMID officially sought permission from El Fasher military command for conducting live ammunitions exercises for an Indonesian force under the supervision of an Italian officer and the permission was granted.

According to **SMC** the exercise is scheduled to be conducted Nov 10-14. UNAMID earlier denied applying for request for such an exercise.

### ***SPLM calls for the release of Darfur detainees***

**Khartoum Monitor** reports SPLM Secretary General Pagun Amum called for “the release of all political detainees in Darfur” adding that “they should be considered prisoners of war.” Amum said that the “SPLM has urged President Al-Bashir to issue an amnesty for these prisoners to create a suitable atmosphere for the forthcoming talks.” SPLM Deputy Secretary-General Yassir Arman supports Amum’s views and said that “it is important to release the detainees” in order “to create a conducive atmosphere for negotiations.”

### ***Parliament to receive list of members of Parties Council and Elections Commission on Monday***

**Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports the Presidency will submit to the National Assembly on Monday lists of nominees for the membership of Parties Council and Elections Commission. The Assembly urged the Presidency to submit the lists before submission of budget which needs long time to discuss. However, the Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir, said if lists are submitted on Monday they would be endorsed by the Parliament after fishing with the budget.

### ***UNMIS welcomes swearing in of Abyei Administration members***

**Local dailies** reports UNMIS welcomed the swearing in of Abyei Area Interim Administration members. In a press release it issued yesterday, UNMIS said the swearing in is an important step towards implementing the CPA and the Abyei Roadmap agreement.

### ***GoSS agrees to registration of southern NGOs by the centre***

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports GoSS voluntary returns coordinator Kormaj Chol Bedong said Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs succeeded in convincing GoSS on the need for registration of tens of humanitarian NGOs in southern Sudan by the federal authorities. He said many organizations are emerging in southern Sudan which needs to be registered.

### ***Constitutional court halts execution of death sentence against chief editor assassins***

**Local dailies** report the Constitutional Court ordered halt of an execution of a death sentence issued against killers of chief editor of Al-Wifaq newspaper Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed under article 16 of the Constitutional Court Act. The decision was intimated to the federal Kuber Prison, Supreme Court and the Judiciary. The Constitutional Court stopped execution of the death sentence based on defence appeal. However, the death sentence will remain valid until the defence appeal is decided.

### ***Sudanese rebels, opposition party to meet along borders with Chad***

**SMC** reports JEM official in Chad Sabi Ibrahim Jadu said arrangements underway for a meeting between JEM and the Turabi-led Popular Congress Party in presence of JEM leader Khalil

Ibrahim. Jadu said the meeting would be held within the next few days along the Sudan-Chad borders to discuss a range of issues between the two sides as well as to coordinate stances of with regard to the Qatari initiative for Darfur peace.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *Darfur: Ban welcomes Sudanese ceasefire, plan to disarm militias*

**(UN News Service)** Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the Sudanese Government's declaration yesterday of an immediate ceasefire between its forces and the rebel movements in Darfur and also Khartoum's stated plan to disarm allied militias operating in the war-torn region.

"The Secretary-General stresses that the effectiveness of any ceasefire depends upon all parties demonstrating their commitment to a cessation of hostilities, particularly since past efforts to uphold a ceasefire in Darfur were not successful," Mr. Ban's spokesperson said in a statement.

"He further emphasizes that the international community continues to have high expectations that the Government of Sudan and the rebel movements will make concrete progress towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict."

The ceasefire, announced by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir at the closing session of the Sudan People's Forum, has also been welcomed by the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (known as UNAMID).

"This ceasefire could signal the start of a new phase in the search for a just and lasting peace in Darfur," UNAMID said in a statement.

### *Rights group: Egypt must stop shooting at migrants*

**(AP)** Egypt should stop shooting migrants attempting to sneak across the barbed wire border into Israel, a desperate journey that has gone from dangerous to deadly, Human Rights Watch said Wednesday in a new report.

Since 2007, Egyptian border guards have killed at least 33 migrants, many from Sudan's war-torn Darfur region, including a pregnant woman and a 7-year-old girl, the report said. Many more have been wounded in shootings as Egypt attempts to respond to international criticism that it doesn't do enough to secure its borders, it said.

Those detained by Egyptian guards at the border are put on trial in secret military courts and often denied access to the U.N. refugee agency in violation of international law, the 90-page report by the New York-based group added. The report also accused Israel of forcibly returning at least 139 African migrants to Egypt, where they risk arrest and deportation.

"Egypt should stop shooting migrants who pose no threat and deporting others to possible torture," said Joe Stork, Human Rights Watch's deputy Middle East director. "Israel should not be forcibly returning people to Egypt, where they are detained arbitrarily and even deported to abusive home countries."

One Sudanese refugee from Darfur talked to the AP about his unsuccessful attempt to cross the rugged Sinai Peninsula border in July 2007. He spoke from his home in Cairo, but refused to

give his name, fearing reprisals from the Egyptian government. He said Egyptian border guards opened fire on him, his family and about three dozen other African migrants as they waited for their smuggler to finish cutting a hole in the barbed wire fence border.

"We all fell to the ground. I saw one pregnant woman with blood pouring out of her skull after she was shot in the head," the 45-year-old refugee said. The 28-year-old woman died, and four others were injured, he said.

The guards arrested the group, beat them and took their belongings. The former farmer said he spent more than a year in several Egyptian prisons before his release in late August. "Now we are struggling to live in Cairo, and there is no way we can go back to Sudan," he said.

The stream of migrants from poor, conflict-ridden African countries crossing the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt to Israel has increased since 2007, apparently as word spread of job opportunities in Israel and chances for resettlement from Egypt to other countries dwindled. Steady work and social services are scarce in Egypt, a country of 76 million where 20 percent live on just \$2 a day.

Human Rights Watch also criticized Israel for sending back migrants to Egypt. Of the 139 migrants Israel has sent back, at least 20 were then deported to Sudan, while the whereabouts of the rest are unknown, the report said.

Link to the full report: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2008/11/11/egypt20177.htm>

### ***IFC explores investment opportunities in Southern Sudan***

**(Xinhua)** IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has announced that it will explore investment opportunities in southern Sudan, one of Africa's poorest conflict-affected regions, following successful investment climate reforms.

IFC said in statement Wednesday that the new opportunities are emerging in such sectors as energy, construction materials, hotels, trade finance, and microfinance.

IFC Director for Southern and Eastern Africa, Jean Philippe Prosper, signaled IFC's increasing confidence in potential investment projects following a recent visit to southern Sudan. "More stable conditions on the ground and an improved business environment have created the right conditions for IFC and other investors to consider new investments in southern Sudan," said Prosper. "IFC wants to do more to encourage investment that creates new opportunities for the people."

The regional government recently enacted four investment laws to help provide a sound legal framework that supports private investment. With help from IFC, it also established a business registry that has registered more than 3,600 companies since May 2007.

"The World Bank will do all it can to assist IFC and private businesses in supporting key sectors that will contribute to Southern Sudan's rapid development," said Laurence Clarke, Manager of the World Bank Sudan office.

An investment climate team comprising staff from IFC and FIAS, a multidonor investment climate advisory service of the World Bank Group, has been providing assistance to Southern Sudan since 2006 and helping build local capacity to support and implement business environment reforms. To date, the team has helped review and draft 11 pieces of legislation,

four of which have been enacted and published. It is also helping establish the southern Sudan Investment Authority and a consultation mechanism for public-private dialogue.

IFC and the World Bank also plan to help the regional government organize an investor conference in the near future.

### ***GoSS Ministry of Legal Affairs introduces Land Bill for debate***

(***Miraya FM website***) South Sudan Ministry of Legal Affairs, Michael Makuei has tabled the Land Bill before South Sudan Legislative Assembly for deliberation. The bill recognizes women's right to own and inherit land among other issues. Makuei told members of parliament that absence of the land law halted development and investment in the south. He said that people of south Sudan have been waiting for the land law for a long time.

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker, James Wani Igga ruled that the Land Bill should be presented for deliberations within seven days.

On the other hand, SSLA passed on Wednesday the Contracts bill in the third reading. Minister Makuei told Miraya FM that the Bill "will help govern transactions among people in south Sudan." The SSLA has passed over 20 bills in total since its establishment in 2005.

On a separate development, Southern Kordofan Legislative Council has passed the Child Bill.

The bill was drafted in coordination with the Ministry of Social Welfare, UNICEF and other concerned organizations.

### ***No casualties reported during students protests in Juba***

(***Miraya FM website***) A senior police officer in Juba confirmed to Miraya FM that no casualties were reported during Tuesday's protest of primary and secondary school students in Juba. Chief of the Police Department in Juba Briji Justin said that three vehicles belonging to the Government of Southern Sudan have been damaged during the protest.

Speaking to ***Miraya FM*** Mr. Briji Justin said "only one person" was wounded and is admitted to Juba teaching hospital for medical assistance.

## **Link**

**Sudanese president calls ceasefire in Darfur.** [Analysis]. By Xan Rice. *The Guardian* (UK).12/11/2008.

<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-11-12RRGA-7LBNFA>