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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Breaking News

THE HAGUE (**AFP**) The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court asked judges Thursday to issue arrest warrants for rebel commanders blamed for killing African 12 peacekeepers and wounding eight in Sudan's Darfur region in September.

"I will not let such attacks go unpunished," prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said in a statement after presenting evidence in the new case to judges of the ICC in The Hague.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that these rebel commanders bear criminal responsibility ... for murder, intentionally directing attacks against personnel and objects involved in a peacekeeping mission and pillaging."

## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Lack of funding impedes Abyei Area Administration's work*

**Al-Khartoum** reports SPLM Secretary in Abyei Chol Changat said new Abyei Area Administration is facing difficulties in the form of lack of funding and infrastructure. He said Abyei Roadmap Agreement continues to be just ink on paper due to lack of funds to meet reconstruction, development and voluntary returns needs. He said the new Administration is occupying a UN Agency premises because of not being provided with a building. He said JIU deployment had not been completed in the eastern and central migration routes due to lack of funding and delay of meeting with Abyei Area Chief Administrator.

### *Civil Service Commission to train southern civil servants*

**Ray Al-Shaab** report Civil Service Commission and Arab Organization for Administrative Development have agreed to train new southern civil servants to be absorbed into civil service as part of 20% job quota provided by the CPA. Commission chairman Prof. Moses Machar yesterday commended the organization's training programmes.

### *ICC issue key point on SISA agenda*

**Local dailies** report experts of Security and Intelligence Services in Africa (SISA) will hold a workshop in Khartoum from 25-27 November 2008. Workshop preparatory committee Chairman NISS DG Maj. Gen. Salah Gosh says the main topic will be ICC issue. Gosh said that the workshop would be addressed by AU representatives and nine working papers would be presented. He expected 30 delegates to participate in what would be the third SISA workshop for SISA, the first was held in Addis Ababa in 2006, and the second in Rwanda in 2007.

According to a report in **Al-Sudani**, Gosh said an ICC indictment of President Bashir would create an "attractive environment for terrorism".

### *UN to speed up resolution of CPA pending issues*

**Local dailies** reports CPC, JDB and CJMC agreed on full cooperation to implement CPA military arrangements. Yesterday's meeting was the first to convene in Khartoum. SRSQ Ashraf Qazi attended the meeting which issued a range of decisions to coordinate and consolidate efforts to monitor and implement ceasefire in areas of tension. UNMIS will assist

SAF and SPLA to bolster the ceasefire and also assist the state leadership to continue to implement the ceasefire. The meeting decided to convene every two or three months to remove obstacles impeding implementation. It will meet in January to review issues referred by the Commission.

### ***Pressures will not lift censorship – NISS DG***

**Local dailies report** NISS DG Lt. Gen. Salah Gosh said the measures taken against newspapers were exceptional, necessitated by the harmful and irresponsible manner of reporting which negatively affected national and strategic interests and security. Gosh told press and media leaders yesterday that the measures taken were constitutional and legal and cleared by the Presidency. He said exercising pressure would not lead to lifting of the censorship. He said NISS was ready to recommend lifting of the censorship whenever a formula is reached to ensure that freedom of press is exercised in a responsible manner.

However, the General Union of Sudanese Journalists yesterday issued a statement declaring its adherence to freedom of press and rejected censorship.

**Local dailies** also report Press and Publication Prosecutor counsel Mohamed Ali Hamza has ordered news of criminal cases under consideration should not be published without written permission from the Prosecution. The order exempted the Ministry of Justice. A circular distributed to the newspapers yesterday said non-compliance with the order would subject the newspaper to legal accountability in accordance with provisions of the Criminal Act 1991.

### ***Sudanese-Russian military cooperation activated***

**Sudan Vision** reports Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohammed Hussein said Sudan government has opened channels for military cooperation with Russia, noting that Moscow concurred with Khartoum on the Darfur issue. "We understand Russian foreign policy and the measures adopted by Russia for securing its national security. If the United States is talking of its national security and for that purposes moves tens of thousands of kilometers to Afghanistan and Iraq, Russia may as well talk of its national security across its neighbours," Hussein said

### ***Chadian president orders confiscation of JEM vehicles***

**Al-Wifaq** reports sources said Chadian President Idriss Deby ordered confiscation of 16 JEM vehicles and sophisticated weapons. Angered by the measure, JEM leader Khalil left N'djamena for a village near Abeche. According to the sources, the Chadian army ordered JEM forces to move within Sudanese territories. They moved to Tarborra Mountains, JEM's only stronghold.

### ***Zalinji University Vice Chancellor kidnapped***

**Local dailies** report an armed group yesterday kidnapped the Vice Chancellor of the University of Zalinji, West Darfur. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ishaq Hassan and his delegation were traveling by a land cruiser when taken to an unknown destination. They were en route from Zalinji to Nyala.

### ***We do not know who killed Garang – Pagan***

**Al-Intibaha** reports SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum's statements in Cairo on the Garang death have caused confusion among SPLM leaders because of the mystery that surrounded the death. "We do not know who killed Garang. We are still looking for the truth," he said. Amum has questioned the findings of the committee set up to investigate the death. "The report presents questions rather than answers," he added.

### ***Sudan army implements security plan in capital city***

**Al-Sahafa** reported SAF and Omdurman locality authorities have begun taking practical steps to implement the city's security plan. These include constructing a 180km sand barrier and a water trench on the western side of the city to protect against any attempts similar to JEM's invasion last May.

Omdurman commissioner, Al-Fatih Iz-al-Din and the head of the Engineers Division, Maj. Gen Hasan Salih Omer yesterday inspected progress on the protective sand barrier to the west of the city and visited military checkpoints in Fatashah, Abu-Hashim, al-Kababish, Abu-Halib and Jabal Mandarah. Omer said the barrier would extend from the west of Jabal Awlia to the border of Northern Kordofan State and would be approximately 30km from residential areas.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Ban joins concern over fresh reports of bombings and fighting in Darfur***

**(UN News Service)** SG Ban Ki-moon today urged all sides to the Darfur conflict to refrain from hostilities as the United Nations tries to verify "troubling reports" of aerial bombings by Sudanese military forces and renewed fighting in recent days across the war-torn region.

UNAMID has received reports this week that Sudanese military planes bombed an area near Kutum, a town in North Darfur state. Fresh clashes have also been reported in the area around Tine in West Darfur and along the border with Chad.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said he takes the reports very seriously and he "calls on all parties to refrain from hostilities, to respect the spirit of the ceasefire recently declared by the Government of Sudan and to cooperate with UNAMID in investigating these reports."

### ***GoSS VP calls for sensitizing southerners on N-S border demarcation process***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** VP of the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Dr. Riek Machar Teny, called on the North-South Border Technical Committee to sensitize the population of Southern Sudan on the process of demarcating the North-South boundary. He said the people of Southern Sudan want to know how the boundary is being demarcated.

Machar spoke at the closing session of a two-day workshop on North-South boundary demarcation process, which was designed to help policy-makers and practitioners develop and enhance their capacities on boundary-making processes strategies.

Machar urged the Committee to soon brief both the Council of Ministers and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly for information sharing on the current status of the demarcation process.

Issues discussed included physical landscape, features of human landscapes and geometric boundary, recovery and information management, historical materials, maps and evidentiary value of maps.

The workshop also discussed presentations made by the Director of the UK-based International Boundaries Research Unit Martin Pratt, on boundary negotiation, mediation and conciliation,

appropriate demarcation and trans-boundary resource management.

Senior representatives of the United Nations Mission in Sudan made presentations on the Geographic Information System Unit, which displayed the latest imagery mapping technology available and how to demarcate the actual boundaries on the ground.

The Deputy Chairperson of the national North-South Border Technical Committee, Engineer Riek Degoal, who chairs the GoSS component of the Committee, briefed participants on the current status of the demarcation process. He said they were analyzing information based on colonial maps, documentation and historical and oral testimony from chiefs and elders, etc.

Once this was done they would begin to draw the so-called January 1, 1956 map on the paper before moving to demarcate it on the ground after endorsement of the Presidency.

Engineer Riek assured that his technical team has been in constant consultations with the policy-makers and other stakeholders in Southern Sudan, adding that it would not commit itself to the outcome of the demarcation process before it finally consults with the Government of Southern Sudan on the issue.

He said one of the biggest challenges facing his team along the vast North-South border areas, is insecurity.

### ***NISS involved in war against Chad, aid groups – UN experts***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** Half of all humanitarian vehicles stolen or hijacked in eastern Chad were found across the border in the Sudan in use by individuals associated with armed groups or Sudanese government officials, according to an investigation conducted by United Nations security.

In a report by a UN panel of experts published Tuesday, the experts depict an “undeniable” ongoing proxy war between Chad and Sudan, decreased humanitarian access, increased displacement of civilian populations and severe violations of the arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council.

The report includes more UN allegations against Sudanese security forces following the UN Secretary-General’s recent claim that Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) had detained and beaten two pilots operating World Food Programme helicopters, while holding the passengers on the aircraft at gunpoint in Golo, Northern Darfur on August 27.

“During the first six months of a wave of carjacking, United Nations security determined during its investigations the whereabouts of a number of vehicles. It established that 50 per cent of the stolen cars were to be found across the border in the Sudan in use with individuals associated with armed groups or Sudanese government officials,” said the panel of experts.

Over a roughly three year period up until the end of July, 129 UN or non-governmental vehicles were hijacked or stolen in eastern Chad, resulting in the death or injury of drivers or passengers in several cases. Fifty-seven of these vehicles have not been recovered to date, said the report.

Sudan and Chad normalized diplomatic relations in November, but Tuesday’s report to the Security Council revealed recent military activity aimed against Chad, coordinated by Sudan’s NISS intelligence branch.

The allegations implicate NISS, directly or indirectly, in some carjacking in Chad. The UN report gave the example of a Toyota Land Cruiser leased from a local merchant in Abeche in Chad by an international organization in May 2008. The vehicle was accosted by four men with automatic rifles, who stole the laptop computers and passports of four passengers. The Chadian owner later tracked the vehicle to El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, where it was being held by Gibril Abdullah, a militia leader and brother of the local police chief.

The merchant was extorted for \$3,000 but still did not recover the vehicle, which was last seen in El Geneina freshly painted and inscribed in Arabic with the words "Border Guard," which the UN panel called a proxy force supplied through military and security channels.

The UN experts presented evidence on coordination between Sudanese security forces and Chadian rebel groups: "Leaders of the Chadian armed opposition groups liaise directly with their NISS counterparts on attack strategy, and ground troops receive their allotted military supplies directly from NISS storehouses along with training in and around El Geneina. During its multiple visits to Western Darfur in 2008 the Panel has watched numerous technical vehicles and trucks clearly marked with the initials of different Chadian armed opposition groups circulating freely.

"In El Geneina itself, UFDD, UFDD-F, RFC and National Alliance vehicles and personnel openly move around town and interact closely with SAF. Resupply columns frequently visit El Geneina market and Sudan Armed Forces (SAF)-military warehouses in order to buy goods and receive supplies from the Government," the experts told the UN Security Council, referring to the acronyms of Chadian opposition groups.

The panel, which arrived in the SAF-controlled area of Western Darfur in August, claimed to have frequently observed "clearly marked UFDD trucks moving in and out of Government compounds in El Geneina. The Panel has received reports of Chadian armed opposition groups receiving extensive military training on Darfur territory throughout this mandate period. Weapons training of all types has been reported across Western Darfur on different occasions."

Reportedly, Sudan sends up to three daily flights of arms and other equipment to El Geneina.

The UN panel of experts noted that Chad is likewise engaged in supplying arms, ammunition, vehicles and training to groups opposed to the government of Sudan.

The UN panel of experts claimed that the government of Sudan had attempted to obstruct its investigations. The panel was established in 2005 pursuant to Security Council resolution 1591.

### ***France surprised by reports on efforts to suspend ICC move***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** France expressed surprise over reports in Sudanese official media about French and British efforts to suspend the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction on Darfur crimes.

Two days ago SUNA published reports saying that France and Britain have agreed to boost efforts to vote for a Security Council resolution invoking

Speaking at the Assembly of ICC states parties on November 14, the French Ambassador to Netherlands Jean-François Blarel repeated the official position of his country, which leads the European Union, on the necessary cooperation with the ICC.

The European Union "intends to take this opportunity to reiterate the obligation to cooperate

with the Court required from the Government of Sudan under resolution 1593 of the Security Council of the United Nations. That obligation to cooperate is not negotiable."

### ***Cholera victims in Northern Bahr El Ghazal***

**(Miraya FM website)** Minister of Health in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Akon Bol Akok said that more than ten people died of cholera and water-borne diseases following the recent floods.

Akon added that the number of patients is on the increase, especially in Eastern Aweil County, Fariang, Akwem-Nhom and Piu-Chiok. The minister said that more than 240 cases of cholera and watery diarrhea were registered during last week.

### ***WFP welcomes ceasefire in Darfur***

**(Miraya FM website)** The director of the World Food Program Office in Sudan, Ken Reo, welcomed Al Bashir's announcement of ceasefire in Darfur. The WFP Chief said maintaining security in Darfur would help provision of humanitarian aid to the needy and IDPs in the area. Ken Reo asked the government to increase the number of police patrols guarding WFP aid convoys.