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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

Ban condemns killing of Nigerian soldier in Darfur

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the SG Ban Ki-moon condemned yesterday the attack on a UNAMID convoy in south Darfur in which a Nigeria soldier was killed. A press release issued by the SG office said Sudan Government and the armed movements in the region share the responsibility for security and safety of civilians and peacekeepers in the region.

Le Roy visits Abyei and Juba

Local dailies report the Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy and SRSG Ashraf Qazi have visited Abyei and Juba as part of Le Roy's mission to familiarize himself with situations in the Sudan. In Juba, they met FVP Kiir and in Abyei they met JIU and JIPU. Le Roy said in Juba much needs to be done to fulfill the remaining CPA benchmarks.

Names of Elections Commission members submitted to Parliament

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports NCP official Ibrahim Gandoor said yesterday that the two partners' list of nominees for the Elections Commission membership was submitted to the National Assembly. He expected the Parliament to debate the list on Monday. Gandoor added that elections would take place on schedule.

JDB to meet for discussion on arms shipment

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports JDB spokesperson Maj. Gen. Ahmed Shaikh Taweel said the Board would meet on Monday to discussion a range of issues including the arms shipment reportedly destined for southern Sudan.

UN supports the Sudan People's initiative and Qatari initiative

Al-Wifaq reports UNMIS representative for political affairs Muin Shreim discussed with NCP officials UN role towards various Sudanese issues. NCP leader Prof. Ibrahim Gandoor told journalists after the meeting that they discussed relations between Sudan Government and UNMIS and the role UN can play to make the Sudanese people's initiative and the Qatari initiative a success. He said the question of UN support to elections would be decided by the elections commission whose list of members would be submitted to the Parliament on Monday. Gandoor said further meetings would focus on the issue of unification of Darfur armed movements.

SPLM offers pirates \$ 10 m

Al-Intibaha reports it has obtained concrete evidence confirming the arms shipment was destined for southern Sudan. SPLM military delegation left for Kenya for talks, through a Kenyan mediator, to secure release the ship in return for a ransom. The paper obtained information confirming that the SPLA delegation reached an agreement with the pirates, through a Kenya interlocutor named "Farah". According to the agreement \$ 8 million will be paid as ransom in return for release of the cargo. The ship is expected to be released within two days.

We do not recognize the ICC – Nafie

Al-Sahafa reports the Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie has dismissed reports which claimed Sudan stressed the need for an indirect mediator to deal with ICC. Nafie yesterday reiterated Sudan rejection to deal with the ICC. "Yesterday's reports about Sudan needing a mediator between it and the ICC were inaccurate," he said.

Arab initiative delegation arrives in Khartoum

Local dailies report a delegation from the Qatari initiative steering committee headed by the Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud arrived in Khartoum yesterday to participate in the meeting of the committee today in Khartoum. The meeting is expected to discuss arrangements for holding Darfur peace talks in Qatar. Both UN-AU chief mediator Bassole and AUPSC Commissioner Lamamre will participate in the meetings.

Journalists denied entry to prison in Omdurman

Local dailies report authorities at the Omdurman Prison denied entry to members of the press accompanying a parliamentary delegation surveying prison conditions there. The report said that the reporters were forced to leave the delegation. The "appalling treatment" by the prison authorities was described by journalists as a "violation of journalists' rights" and brought on a demand for an apology from the prison's administration.

Websites/International News Coverage

Bashir appoints administrators for Abyei area

(Sudan Tribune website) 7/10/08 -- The President of Sudan Omar Al-Bashir on Monday appointed chairmen for the five departments in Abyei area, the disputed border region between Northern and Southern Sudan.

The five chairmen appointed Monday are Ayom Moneb Ayom Korsek, Nwak Afog Anyar, Deng Ar Deng, Kol Arok Kol, and Matees Anyak Kol. Bashir additionally made the following appointments to the Council of Abyei area: Alek Shol Manel, Ayor Malek Ajang, Ashai Deng Abem, Adol Kalot, Akwel Majak Kok, Umbadi Kabbashi, Akon Atak Gok Atem, Piol Menyang Anyok, Zakariya Atem Beyen, Yai Lamem Kuwal, Kuwal Agok Deng, Kabbashi Al-Toam Kabbashi, Makoy Angok gak, Majak Mates Agom, Mekki Heraizan Suleiman, Musa Bagadi Habib, Maria Ayok Guwen, Niyal Na Ajang Manel Ro, Shol Agok Ngor and Charles Abyei Dug.

Rebels show willingness to settle Darfur conflict – mediator

(Sudan Tribune website) — Darfur peace mediator said yesterday that all Darfur rebel movements have showed strong desire to settle the ongoing conflict in Darfur. Djibril Bassolé met yesterday the Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafi who is also government chief negotiator for Darfur talks. The chief mediator had discussed yesterday the Qatari initiative with the chairperson of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

After the meeting Bassolé told reporters in Khartoum yesterday that the rebel movements expressed their desire for peace in Darfur adding "We must work hard to get over the difficulties". He further noted that strong will to achieve peace is what will push all these initiatives forward.

In a press conference held in Paris on Tuesday at the end of his visit to France, Nafi criticized the position of Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, the chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) on

the peace process. "Abdel-Wahid does not only refuse the Qatari initiative, but he rejects the whole process of negotiations" said Nafie.

However Bassolé asserted that Al-Nur didn't reject to take part in the peace process but he has some reservations about the negotiations. He also added he had met Abdel Wahid Al-Nur and discussed the issue with him.

Al-Nur had reaffirmed his commitment to the peace process two days ago. He also said that Khartoum lack of credibility forced his movement to ask first for the ceasefire implementation in order to protect the civilians in Darfur; he also urged the return of the displaced to their villages.

Bassolé, who discussed Al-Nur's position with the Presidential Assistant, also said he would re-contact Al-Nur to talk about the Qatari initiative. "I'll call again, to explain him that the Qatari initiative could lead to a solution for the Darfur conflict," said Bassolé.

Salva Kiir reinstates Lakes speaker, ending political turmoil

(Sudan Tribune website) 8/10/08 (RUMBEK) – The President of Southern Sudan and FVP of the Republic of Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit said that Lakes State Speaker Isaiah Alier Mashinkok and his deputy Marik Nanga Marik who had been impeached on Sept. 24, 2008, should absolutely resume their duty in Lakes State Assembly.

Salva Kiir Mayardit Kiir confirmed that the procedures used to impeach the legislators from their positions had been incorrect. "Definitely Lakes parliament is to resume its normal function under Speaker Honorable Mashinkok and his deputy honorable Marik Nanga Marik," he said.

Meantime, Anne Itto, SPLM deputy secretary general for southern Sudan and special advisor to Salva Kiir, said both the speaker and the deputy are still actively empowered and they have to continue their role in the Lakes State Assembly.

The SPLM would deal with the case in its Secretariat, she said. "Both the institutions, the Executive and Parliament, were not reporting very well on finances that they have taken," she added.

Trousers' arrests prompt Salva Kiir's intervention in Juba

(Sudan Tribune Website) – Local administrators in Juba arrested young women and men in town who wear very tight trousers, short mini-skirts and short T-shirts, describing these as indecent clothing.

The campaign resulted in a backlash from central figures in the government of Southern Sudan, including from President Salva Kiir Mayardit, who ordered the release of women arrested in Juba over the last two days. The incident revealed areas of deep social strain and local concerns about new cultural influences.

Numerous young women were picked up by police officers and taken in the back of pickup trucks to a 'Public Order Court' in the Malakia / Konyo Konyo Market district of Juba. Eyewitnesses described many women later leaving the premises in bloodstained clothing, showing what appeared to be clear signs of beating, according to the Ministry of Presidential Affairs of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).

Local police said that the arrests were authorized by an order dated October 2, signed by Albert Pitia Redantore, the commissioner of Juba County, in which he banned "all bad behaviors,

activities and imported illicit cultures of what is known as 'niggers' in Juba County." Southern Sudan's capital for the last year has witnessed an influx of returning young people from northern Sudan and the Diaspora, some importing foreign cultural practices and organizing themselves into groups labeled as 'negro' or 'nigger' groups. Girls and boys as young as 12 years old participate in such groups in the town.

Anne Itto, deputy secretary general of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), explains, "'Niggers' is the perhaps unfortunate term being used by older generations in Juba to describe a section of Sudanese youth, which has adopted loosely Urban American/Jamaican modes of dress and behaviour. The term is pejorative, as the group has been anecdotally associated with criminal actions."

More than thirty youth were arrested and taken to police stations Monday as they were rounded up in the streets by the police, who accused them of not dressing in a decent manner and exposing their bodies.

In a telephone statement, Minister Luka Biong Deng noted that the controversial police action had originated at the local level, within Central Equatoria State, and that the State bore the responsibility for it.

The minister said that the president had ordered a "serious investigation" into the incident, and specifically into how the local county order had come to be issued. The legality of the order has subsequently been widely questioned. GoSS Minister of the Interior Paul Mayo Ace is reported to be heading the investigation into the matter.

GoSS Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs Mary Kinden Akimbo criticized the order to arrest the young people, saying the issue needed to be carefully studied before taking any necessary decision. "Decency is a subjective word ... which one needs to first define to know what constitutes decency and what does not," she said.

Itto stated on behalf of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, "The women detained are all reportedly young. Contrary to suggestions that the action was part of a crackdown on foreign national sex-workers, at least a large proportion was reported to be Sudanese nationals. Some were said to be returning home from Church at the time of arrest and at least one described being forcibly detained whilst bathing her baby, putting the infant at risk of drowning."

Itto visited the United States in August as part of a senior SPLM delegation. "We are fortunate to have been invited by the two leading political parties," she told Sudan Tribune during the Democratic and Republican political conventions. "We met a number of people, including Susan Rice, Madeleine Albright and had conferences."

"The order is vague as to exactly what behaviors are being banned," Itto said on Monday, criticizing the local morality initiative.

Juba County Commissioner Redactor on Thursday also issued an order closing all bars from 10 p.m. until 5 p.m. the next day.

South Sudan cancels crackdown on tight pants

JUBA, Sudan (**Reuters**) - South Sudan's president shut down a police investigation yesterday that saw scores of young women arrested for "disturbing the peace" by wearing tight trousers. The women were arrested over the past week by police who said they suspected them of belonging to youth gangs known for drinking, fighting and public nudity. However, government officials, including the south's gender minister, said they were angry at the way the women had

been targeted and treated after arrest.

President Salva Kiir had ordered a "serious investigation" into the police crackdown, said a government minister. Kiir also ordered the immediate release of any woman arrested under the operation in the south's capital Juba, and said there were questions over its legality, Southern Minister for Presidential Affairs Luka Biong added in a statement.

Police arrested more than 35 women Sunday night alone; angering bystanders by the way they pushed them into two trucks. The deputy police commissioner of Juba County, Raiman Lege, said they were disturbing the peace by wearing trousers that were too tight. The group was freed Monday without charge after appearing in court.

Sudan's semi-autonomous south generally has a much more relaxed approach to women's dress than the country's Muslim north, with which it fought a two-decade war that was ended by a 2005 peace deal.