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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

Ali Kushayb in government custody, will be tried – Sabdarat

Al-Sahafa reports the Arab Justice Minister meeting in Cairo have expressed solidarity with Sudan against ICC application and welcomed the legal steps taken by Sudan to address the issue such as the appointment of a general prosecutor to investigate violations in Darfur, setting up of special courts and amendment of the criminal law.

Sudanese Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat told AP that the militia leader Ali Kushayb was in government custody and is being investigated for prosecution.

Le Roy welcomes Qatari initiative for peace in Darfur

Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reports the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy has welcomed and supported the Qatari initiative to address Darfur issue because it supports the efforts of the UN-AU Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibril Bassolé. He discussed with the Presidential Assistant Nafie role of UNMIS and UNAMID, CPA implementation and upcoming elections. The JSR Rodolphe Adada and SRSG Ashraf Qazi attended the meeting.

Al-Sahafa reports Le Roy also met yesterday the Foreign Minister Deng Alor, NISS DG Gen. Salah Gosh and MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq. According to **Al-Sudani** Le Roy has expressed UN readiness to make upcoming elections a success.

UNMIS spokesperson Brian Kelly told **Miraya FM** that a JMT yesterday searched the Ethiopian aircraft cargo in Juba and their report will be submitted to CPA competent bodies.

UN says mandated to use force to protect Mission

Al-Sahafa reports according to UN an additional 4000 hybrid troops will deploy in Darfur by the end of the current year. A senior UN official told the paper that UN was ready for the worst scenarios, citing the threats against UNAMID if arrest warrant is issued for Bashir. The official said they were mandated by the Security Council to use force to protect UN troops in Sudan as well as contingency planning to evacuate UN personnel.

The official ruled out deployment of a European contingent at this stage but confirmed that troops from Nepal and Thailand would join UNAMID during the first quarter of the coming year. Reports about secret agreements with NATO were mere rumors, the official said.

We need No permit from SAF to import arms – SPLM

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports GoSS VP Riak Machar has denied knowledge about reports of an Ethiopian aircraft carrying arms which landed in Juba Airport two days ago. "If the cargo is proved destined for SPLA then there is no problem because CPA allows SPLA to import arms from any foreign source," Machar said. "SPLA does not need to coordinate with SAF on arms import matters because SAF did not coordinate with SPLA when it imported warplanes," he added.

An MFA source said the Ethiopian and Kenyan Ambassadors in Khartoum had been summoned

to the Ministry, No details were provided about the ship seized by pirates and cargo plane in Juba. As a result, the MFA instructed Sudan Ambassadors in Ethiopia and Kenya to contact their respective MFAs for further details.

Al-Intibaha reports that according to GoSS the equipment on the plane was imported for display at a trade fair in Juba. GoSS VP Machar said the cargo was unloaded by UNMIS mechanisms and has dismissed claims that UNMIS was denied access to the cargo. He said the cargo was unloaded and the equipments were transported to the exhibition ground.

SPLM says ready for coming elections

Sudan Vision reports SPLM said it has completed arrangements for the coming elections at the level of the Presidency as well as other levels. Deputy Chairman of the National Legislative Council and the SPLM official Atem Garang reiterated that SPLM like other political parties is set to attaining maximum gains in the elections. He told Sudan Vision that SPLM is presently engaged in procuring logistic and material support and organizing its international affairs for the elections.

President Bashir to open Parliament session today

Radio Omdurman broadcast that President Bashir will inaugurate today in Khartoum the National Assembly's 7th and last session. National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir said this session would be the last. He said elections would be held on schedule and strongly denied any intent to postpone them. He said names of the NEC members would be submitted to the Parliament within days for approval. Tahir said parties seeking elections delays fear the elections results. He said that the Parliament would decide on the national security law and the national press and publications law if submitted by the Executive to the Parliament during this session.

US agrees to Beja self-determination

Al-Intibaha reports reliable sources revealed that US officials have agreed to self-determination for the eastern Sudan Beja tribes. According to the sources, the US Administration agreed to fund activities of the Beja Congress for Reforms and Development.

A delegation from the Beja Congress visited Washington last week. The Beja Congress' chairman Osman Bawein and six of his aides have held consultations with US officials including US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs J. Frazer.

Website/International News Coverage

Sudan detains militia leader wanted by ICC in preparation for trial

12/10/08, **Sudan Tribune website**, (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese government revealed today that a militia leader wanted by the ICC has been detained and will stand trial for his alleged role in Darfur war crimes. Sudanese justice minister Abdel-Basit Sabdarat told the Associated Press from Cairo that militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also know as Ali Kushayb "is in government custody".

"Kushayb will be tried in Sudan's domestic courts. He is under investigation. He will be held accountable" Sabdarat said.

The move come almost three months after the ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced in mid-July that he requested an arrest warrant against Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

Following that Sudan has been looking into ways that would allow it to avoid confrontation with the international community over the ICC through conducting trials for lesser suspects.

The judges of the ICC issued arrest warrants last year for Kushayb and Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs on 51 counts of alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes. But Khartoum has so far refused to hand them over.

Khartoum had long claimed that Kushayb was in custody since November 2006 for investigations into allegations of violations he committed during the peak of the Darfur conflict in 2004.

Sabdarat did not say on what charges will Kushayb be prosecuted despite earlier assertions that he has been cleared from any wrongdoings. The ICC Statute prevents investigation into crimes that were looked into by local judiciary under the concept of "complementarity". Sudan must prosecute Haroun and Kushayb on the same charges brought against them by the ICC if it wants to remove the case from ICC jurisdiction.

Arab delegation on Darfur concludes "positive" visit in Sudan

12/10/08, KHARTOUM (*Xinhua*) -- An Arab delegation seeking supports of the Sudanese government for an Arab initiative for solving Sudan's Darfur crisis wound up a five-day visit in Sudan on Sunday, which the delegation's head described as "positive." The visit had realized its objectives and was supported and welcomed by the Sudanese government and the political parties, especially the people in Darfur, said Ahmed bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud, chairman of the steering committee of the Arab initiative for solving the Darfur.

The delegation held a series of meetings with Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir, high-ranking officials in the Sudanese government, the Government of South Sudan, and the three states of Darfur. The delegation put forward to the Sudanese side an action plan for carrying out the Arab initiative which was worked out by the Arab League during recent meeting in the Qatari capital of Doha.

"All the Sudanese people have also expressed their serious desire to preserve the unity of Sudan and the integrity of its lands," said Al-Mahmoud, who is also Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs. He said the visit to the three states of Darfur had assured his delegation "of the importance of enhancement of the situation and cease-fire in Darfur toward reaching peace in the region."

UN peacekeeping chief tours Sudan, meets with officials

(*Sudan Tribune website*) October 12, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy toured Darfur and yesterday held a series of meetings with Sudanese government officials in Khartoum, the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) announced.

The new peacekeeping chief, who was appointed in August to oversee almost 110,000 personnel serving in 20 peace operations around the world, has never been to Sudan, which is set to become the site of the world's largest peacekeeping mission. The peacekeeping chief is seeking to familiarize himself with the situation and meet influential figures.

The Under-Secretary General met with Foreign Minister Deng Alor, Presidential Assistant Nafi Ali Nafi, National Security Director Salah Abdallah Gosh, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq.

After meeting with Nafi, Le Roy told journalists that the discussion had focused on the UN's role in the Sudan through the presence of UNAMID.

"Both the Government of Sudan and the United Nations are committed to accelerate the deployment of UNAMID," Le Roy said. He welcomed last week's tripartite meeting in Khartoum between Government, UN and the AU, which he said would speed up deployment of the force in the coming weeks and months. Current plans call for deploying at least another 4,500 troops by the end of this year, bringing the mission to about 65 per cent of its mandated 26,000 troops and police.

Asked about the Darfur security situation, Mr. Le Roy noted that the situation had improved recently but that there were still serious concerns about banditry and potential clashes.

The political process offered the only means to achieve peace, he stressed, noting that AU-UN Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole is working hard to engage the main actors in order to reach a framework agreement. Le Roy also welcomed a Qatari initiative in support of the chief mediator's work.

AU-UN Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada and the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sudan Ashraf Qazi accompanied Le Roy on his visit. Last week Le Roy toured Darfur. On Wednesday he met with internally displaced persons (IDPs) representatives in El Fasher.

The next day he met in El Fasher with former rebel leader Minni Minawi, leader of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/MM), who was the only main rebel leader to sign a peace agreement with the government in May 2006.

On Friday, the Under Secretary-General together with Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada and UNAMID Force Commander General Martin Agwai and other senior UAMID officials visited the mission's sector headquarters in El Geneina, West Darfur. Le Roy also visited the governor of West Darfur, Abu Ghassim, who promised to work for dialogue among the various combatants so that IDPs can return to their homes.

Later that day, the delegation flew to Nyala, South Darfur where they spent the evening. While in South Darfur, Le Roy met with Deputy Governor Farah Mustafa and visited Kalma IDP camp.

Le Roy and the sheiks of Kalma discussed the security situation in and around the camp and the restriction of oil supplies needed to provide clean water to the camp. The sheiks requested that UNAMID increase their deployment in the region to protect civilians, but they also expressed gratitude to UNAMID for recently providing a day-and-night presence in the camp.

The Under Secretary-General concluded the third leg of his trip in Darfur by visiting the UNAMID Labado Team site. Labado was razed in 2004 but subsequently became a base site. Juma Hagar's forces – government-aligned troops with Minnawi's SLM – clashed with the old AMIS peacekeeping mission near Labado in 2007.

Le Roy also earlier visited Southern Sudan as part of his week-long tour, where the UN fields a separate mission to monitor a 2005 peace agreement between the government of Sudan and a warring party distinct from the rebels in Darfur, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

11 killed in Darfur militia ambush

(Reuters) Armed militias ambushed a band of rebel fighters in south Darfur, sparking a gun

battle that left at least 11 dead, insurgents said yesterday. The reports of fresh fighting in Darfur came at a sensitive time for Khartoum which has been stepping up diplomatic efforts to block a move by the International Criminal Court to indict Sudan's president for war crimes in the country's violent west.

Leaders from two rebel factions said the militias who struck late on Saturday were part of a build-up of fighters around the town of Muhajiriya, a past flashpoint in the Darfur conflict. Rebels accused Sudan's government of backing the militias, saying Khartoum wanted to "spread chaos" in the region. But aid sources in the area said it was unclear who was supporting the militia force.

Journalists union urges South Sudan to release detained editor

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudan Journalists General Union has called for the release of the editor of The Citizen who has been detained by the South Sudan government. Nhial Bol, editor-in-chief of the Citizen paper, was arrested Friday after he published an article discussing high salaries paid to officials in South Sudan's ministry of legal affairs.

The Journalists' Union said yesterday the government should respect the Press and Publications Act, 2004 and the instructions by the Minister of Justice not to detain journalists in cases of public opinion. "I have been told I will be held for three days without bail," Bol said yesterday.