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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

UN studying information about cooperation with ICC

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports UNMIS embarked on studying the information released by the paper yesterday with regard to “secret cooperation” between the Mission and the ICC Prosecutor’s Office. It held an emergency meeting yesterday for discussion on the matter. “We are studying the matter, we have no comment before we have finished,” says Khaled Mansour, UNMIS PIO Director. Mansour expects UNMIS to issue a statement after obtaining adequate information.

UNMIS source in Khartoum said the Mission had no connection with the ICC, adding any dealing was in “personal framework”.

On the other hand, Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman and SRSG Ashraf Qazi discussed a range of issues yesterday at the NCP HQs. Ismail told the press the meeting discussed a range of issues including Darfur and how to address it through the People of Sudan Initiative.

The SRSG Qazi has expressed satisfaction about the level of CPA implementation and hoped that UN would contribute more efforts in the coming stage to achieve peace in Darfur.

The paper indicated it plans to publish the “confidential documents” tomorrow.

Government investigating claims of “secret cooperation” between UNMIS and Ocampo

Akhbar Al Yom reports Sudan Government began investigating claims of “secret cooperation” between UNMIS and the ICC Prosecutor’s Office through its mission in NY, other bodies and capitals. “If proved true, the Government will deal with it seriously and will take necessary measures to handle such a situation. Such behaviour constitutes clear violation of the UN Charter,” says an informed source. The source accused many western countries of using some UN personnel for intelligence. The source recalled Guehenno’s unwarranted hostility towards the Sudan Government as the man who had been fabricating reports and unfounded the accusations against the Government. As such, the source did not rule out that Guehenno had agreed to pass the information from UNMIS to the ICC.

Also **Al-Sahafa** reports that Khartoum is checking through its mission in NY as to whether UN in Sudan leaked “confidential documents” to the ICC Prosecutor about the human rights situation in Darfur which were used by Ocampo in his application for Bashir’s apprehension.

Official sources told the paper yesterday that “If proved true, Sudan government will deal with the matter seriously as it represents clear violation of the UN Charter”.

The sources did not rule out veracity of news about “confidential documents” been leaked by the former UNDPKO chief Jean Marie Guehenno to the ICC Prosecutor claiming that some western countries tend to use some UN personnel for intelligence.

According to the **Sudan Media Centre website** Reportedly, the ICC Prosecutor asked for information from former UNDPKO chief Jean Marie Guehenno and pledged to keep any

exchange of information between them secret. Guehenno reportedly agreed to send the documents to Ocampo's office through a "third partner".

Serious Investigation to follow- Sudan Vision Editorial

An editorial on the ICC controversy in yesterday's ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** Arabic daily says that if the allegations are true: "Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs should ask for an explanation about this story, then take the necessary measures against the personnel involved in this grave violation"

"If the information is correct, that means that the UN mission intervened in internal Sudanese affairs and its national security, hence violating and defeating its cause". It is known that any cooperation between the ICC Prosecutor General and the UN mission will definitely affect the relations between the Sudanese government and the international organization to the extent that UN mission in the country will be impossible, especially in this critical times when the international community is working hard to reach a settlement to Darfur crisis.

"The questions that pose itself, if the news story is true, is Ocampo mandated to ask UN for any confidential information bearing in mind that ICC is not one of UN institutions? Has the UN the mandate to release any confidential documents to any party outside its institutions?"

"We call our government to review the mandate of the UN mission and investigate in the case and take the necessary measures according to the investigations outcome".

Qazi commends cooperation with Sudan government

National Radio broadcast SRSG Ashraf Qazi has commended the level of cooperation between UN and Sudan Government. The SRSG Qazi made the remarks after meeting with Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail in Khartoum yesterday.

SPLA continues rearming, Ethiopian tanks reach Blue Nile

Al-Intibaha reports that arms, flown by Kenyan chopper to New Site, were transported to "Bulgam" camp in Juba by trucks. Also, it claimed that Ethiopian tanks arrived in the Blue Nile area prior to be transported to the Nuba Mountains (Southern Kordofan).

Informed sources told the paper that SPLA transported the arms by Russian-made trucks led by Major Akon Ruad four of which crossed Juba Bridge to Bulgam camp.

SPLA in Unity State holds Taban Deng responsible for deterioration of security

Al-Intibaha reports SPLA blamed the time bombs explosion incident in Bentiu last Sunday on Governor Taban Deng. Taban is also accused of abusing public money for personal interest.

Elections on schedule – Kiir

Al-Sahafa reports FVP Kiir as saying that SPLM sticks to holding of elections on schedule which is a constitutional commitment. Kiir also affirmed the SPLM acceptance of the prospective census results. Kiir made the remarks in his address to a joint session of the Council of States and southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba yesterday.

Kalma camp threat to security – Interior Minister

Al Khartoum reports Minister of Interior Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid told the National Assembly in Khartoum yesterday that South Darfur State security authorities have decided to relocate Kalma

camp. The Minister said that the camp constituted security threat and a safe haven for Abdul Wahid-led faction leaders who pose threat to security and safety.

Website/International News Coverage

Preparing for massive demobilization

21/10/08 (*IRIN*) KHARTOUM -- Sudan is planning to disarm, demobilize and re-integrate over 180,000 soldiers into civilian life, but the ambitious scheme to rebuild war-shattered communities could raise false expectations, observers warn.

"We are looking in total at the demobilization and reintegration of 182,900 adults across east, north and south Sudan, not including any possible operations in Darfur," said Adriaan Verheul, chief of the UN programme supporting the government-run scheme. "This will make it the biggest DDR operation in the world."

The programme is a key part of a 2005 north-south peace deal that ended one of Africa's longest civil wars, in which over 1.5 million people are estimated to have been killed and another six million displaced.

Run jointly by northern and southern government commissions, the numbers will be split equally between the northern Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the southern ex-rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"It will serve [the] stabilization of peace in the country," said William Deng Deng, chairman of the southern DDR commission, in recent comments to Sudan's official news agency SUNA.

Initial lists run to 50,000 names, and planning maps mark out proposals for work to begin. Child soldiers are the first focus, with some 1,300 already demobilized.

In addition, 2,900 ex-rebels in eastern Sudan, who fought for a decade in separate battles before a 2006 peace deal, have taken the first tentative steps towards peace.

"The aim is to turn soldiers into civilians able to make enough money to take care of themselves and their families without their army salaries," Verheul told IRIN.

The head of the northern DDR commission, Sulaf al-Dein Salih, said progress was going well in the east, expressing "satisfaction" at the disarmament process "in both north and southern Sudan".

Under a staggered demobilization scheme, soldiers put forward by their commanders will be assessed, electronically registered and given medical checks at special centres.

They will also get a US\$400 lump-sum payment, 10 weeks rations for a family of five, and a package to help start a new life as civilians, including basic tools, a mosquito net, plastic sheeting and a wind-up radio.

Later, each retiring fighter will receive reintegration support worth \$1,750, including vocational training to learn a new career, or backing to establish a small business or farm. "It's a political process with security objectives, but uses development methods and has a humanitarian impact," said Verheul.

Building peace in Sudan is a slow and often shaky process. Many worry that continuing war in the western region of Darfur could destabilize peace efforts elsewhere, especially with potential genocide charges looming over President Omar al-Bashir.

National elections are due in 2009, followed by a 2011 referendum in the semi-autonomous south on whether it should become fully independent.

Tensions remain high, especially in flashpoint border zones, and former enemy armies are watching over their neighbour's capabilities with concern, nervous of reports that the other is rearming.

In the grossly underdeveloped south, an area about the size of Spain and Portugal combined but with virtually no tarred roads, militias and heavily armed civilians still dominate many regions.

Even apparently basic tasks, such as transporting fighters to demobilization centres, will pose giant logistical challenges. "You cannot demobilize a soldier and then put him out on the street without the means to survive and a minimum of dignity," said Verheul.

"Reintegrating former military personnel is often difficult; they may not find the new life appealing, or they don't have the right education for civilian jobs - or there might not be enough jobs for them on the market."

Experts say it is vital core funding is guaranteed before the bulk of demobilization begins, warning that ex-soldiers not provided with a new means of income could themselves pose considerable risks.

And the programme is far from cheap - costing US\$385 million for the crucial three-year reintegration phase.

The cash is planned to come from the UN, international donors, and \$45 million from Sudan.

Officials are upbeat about the prospects: "Policies are in place, planning is under way and the funding for some initial steps is available," the UN's top envoy to Sudan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, said in a recent report.

A pilot project for adult fighters is due to start in November in Blue Nile State, with around 1,000 soldiers from both north and south expected to take part. "If successful, this will be repeated in other areas," Verheul said.

However, around half of the first batch of 50,000 put forward are war-wounded or disabled, a point some critics say means that active military forces will not be reduced.

Verheul dismissed this, arguing there is a need to treat all ex-combatants with respect, to encourage those still able to fight to find a new income. "No parties in a DDR programme come forward with their best soldiers first," said Verheul. "One must build confidence, to get a more serious reduction in military forces later."

Many Sudanese who were affected by the war are hoping for the best. Like many whose villages were destroyed in Sudan's 21-year civil war, tea seller Mary Jok knows the cost of conflict.

"There's been fighting most of my life," said the 40-year old widow, who ekes out a living from a

tiny street stall in the Sudanese capital, [Khartoum] where she fled a decade ago. "My daughters died and my sons were taken to fight," she said.

On the scattered stools in the dust around Mary Jok's tea stall, customers say there is both hope and cynicism at the programme. "We have heard grand plans before," said Ahmed Ali Mohammed, a teacher. "But we want peace to develop Sudan. We need it to work - there are too many people today who know only how to fight."

Sudan's Kiir says ruling NCP wary of SPLM role in Darfur

20/10/08, ***Sudan Tribune website***, JUBA – The Sudanese First Vice-President and the head of southern Sudan government Salva Kiir deplored the "appalling humanitarian situation" in the war ravaged region of Darfur.

"As we speak, our brothers and sisters in Darfur are suffering the agonies of war and displacement..... If the Sudan is to survive into the 21st century, we cannot continue to kill and brutalize ourselves" Kiir said in prepared remarks at the Joint Meeting of the Council of States and Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) in Juba today...

Kiir said that previous attempts by the SPLM to mediate in the Darfur conflict was met with skepticism from the ruling NCP. "We have previously taken the initiative to unite various Darfurian Movements, here in Juba. This humble move is being misunderstood by some political circles in Khartoum" the Southern leader said.

However he emphasized that this will not discourage the SPLM from trying to intervene and participate in a resolution to the Darfur crisis. "We are concerned to stop the bloodshed, and in this we have been proved to be correct. It is a high time for all of us come together, putting the interest of our nation and our people above our parties' interests" Kiir said.

The SPLM leader took part in the national consultations forum on Darfur that took place the town of Kenana in White Nile state.

Kiir stressed that only Sudanese people can bring peace to their homelands not through other countries and warned that peace agreements signed throughout the country must be honored. "It is an overriding duty for you to ensure that all the States stand together to support peace in Sudan. This extends beyond Darfur; the Eastern Peace Agreement must also be closely monitored, as failure in its implementation will regrettably reproduce again that Old Sudan with all its oddities and disgraces" he said.

France turns down request by Sudan for mediation with ICC

20/10/08, ***Sudan Tribune website***, PARIS – The French government rejected a request by Sudanese officials to act as an intermediary with the ICC, a French official has told the ***Sudan Tribune***. But Paris stressed to a visiting Sudanese delegation led by senior presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi, that there is no alternative to cooperating directly with the ICC to achieve justice in Darfur, the French diplomatic sources said.

Sudan: War Crimes Investigations Are Mere 'Window Dressing'

Press release, ***Human Rights Watch***, 20/10/08 (Washington, DC) -- Sudan's recent legal actions against a militia commander and others accused of war crimes in Darfur hold little promise of bringing justice to victims of serious abuses, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch accused the Sudanese government of trying to undermine investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"The Sudanese government is putting up more window dressing as part of its ongoing effort to block the investigations of the International Criminal Court," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "No one should be fooled by these moves"....

"Even if the government were serious about prosecuting Kosheib, limitations in Sudanese law mean that he could not be tried for the full range of crimes, including crimes against humanity, that have been committed in Darfur," said Gagnon

"The Sudanese government has repeatedly said its courts can prosecute those responsible for crimes in Darfur, but so far we have only seen ordinary criminal cases such as livestock theft," said Gagnon. "We've yet to see anyone held responsible for conflict-related crimes."...

In 2005, after the ICC prosecutor announced the opening of his investigations, Sudan established Special Criminal Courts for Events in Darfur for the same purpose. But, as documented in the Human Rights Watch report, "Lack of Conviction", authorities brought only 13 cases before these courts, all involving low-ranking individuals accused of minor offenses such as theft. In the sole case relating to a large-scale attack on civilians, the court convicted the accused of theft that occurred after the attack.

Darfur displaced renew their demand for security before peace talks

20/10/08, **Sudan Tribune website**, (ELFASHER) — Darfur IDPs organized today a demonstration in the different camps in the troubled region demanding that security should be first on the ground before peace talks. IDP spokesperson Hussein Abu Sharati told Sudan Tribune today that the Qatari initiative is seen as an attempt to rescue President Al-Bashir from the international justice more than as a serious effort to end the ongoing violence in the troubled region. "The displaced are against the Qatari initiative because they do not trust the government of Al-Bashir. We want Khartoum to stop the ongoing bloody attacks and to disarm the janjaweed before talks" Abu Sharati said.