



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Government threatens UNMIS accountability*

**Al-Intibaha** reports Government says it is still regarding reports involving exchange of correspondences between the ICC and former DPKO chief on situation in Darfur as “media accounts”.

NCP official Amin Hassan Omer said UNMIS has no mandate to refer reports about Darfur, noting the government would take decisive measures if involvement of the UN Mission in the exchange of these correspondences is proved true.

Media reports have earlier reported exchange of correspondence between the ICC and UN in which the former requested the latter to make available information and reports about Darfur.

### *Confidential document reveals cooperation between an American Organization and “Ocampo”*

**Akhir Lahza** newspaper reports it has obtained from its sources in the humanitarian aid agencies operating in Darfur a confidential document of a high degree of importance revealing cooperation of an American organization operating in Sudan called “the International Rescue Committee” with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to provide information and evidences on commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur region. {The document (sealed confidential) contains instructions and guidelines for IRC staff on how to cooperate with the ICC Prosecutor’s Office. The document from” Joseph Aquettant” who is IRC’s Protection and Security Affairs Officer, dated 9 July 2005, says IRC supports international justice mechanisms and welcomes the establishment of the ICC. Bearing witness to egregious violations of human rights on a day-to-day basis, the IRC Sudan considers the commencement of formal investigations in Darfur as a positive step.

The document, with the heading “Memorandum” adds the IRC Sudan’s position with regard to the ICC is to assist Mandated Agencies to cooperate with various ICC organs including the Office of the Prosecutor. The Memorandum explains that the Country Director and Darfur Director will be the focal points for all requests from the ICC. It has instructed its staff to refer formal and informal reports to the Director. The document says If IRC staff are requested to bear witness before the Court, this will have to be cleared by IRC NY in order to ensure their safety and security.

The paper wishes to indicate that the ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has told **Al-Arabiya Television** a couple of days ago that he is keen to save lives of the witnesses and safety of documents on which he has based his indictment of President Bashir. The document revealed that IRC in 2004 and 2005 cooperated with UNCOI after IRC (Switzerland) received a letter from OHCHR in Geneva in November 2004.

The Memorandum concludes its guidelines to IRC staff in Sudan by saying that the “ICC intervention plays a useful role in Sudan and that for the first time there will be international accountability for army and security officers who have committed excesses and mistakes in Darfur}. It is worth noting that the USA is reluctant to recognize the ICC.

*(The paper concludes by stating that more details will be published tomorrow)*

### ***UN Day 2008: Committed to Action, Achieving MDGs in Sudan***

**Sudan Vision** reports International Cooperation Minister Tigani Salih Fedail revealed that in the year 2000, world leaders committed to achieve 8 goals and set measurable targets, with the aim to fight poverty, hunger and disease by 2015, Sudan was among them. Fedail was speaking at a function marking UN Day 2008 under the slogan (Achieving the Development Millennium Development Goals in Sudan), in the Friendship Hall.

DSRSG and HC Ameerah Haq said yesterday is an opportunity to take a critical look at key development issues in Sudan, and what we can do to address these jointly. Haq said less than one-third of Southern Sudan population has access to adequate health services. Women's health care is a particular concern (An estimated 1,107 mothers die per 100,000 live births in the country in Southern Sudan alone, nearly twice as many (2,037).

Ameerah Haq revealed that for every 1000 child being born in Sudan, 112 die before their fifth year. And one in three children (32.5%) suffers from moderate or severe chronic malnutrition. Adding that since 2001, an extra 2.4 million people in North Sudan have gained access to safe drinking water bringing the total to 17.7 million. However, this still represents less than 60%. In the South, the number is less than 50%, while access to sanitation here is as low as 6.4%.

### ***Armed movement allow passage of vaccination teams***

**Al-Ahdath** reports WHO and Darfur armed movements have agreed to carry out anti-polio vaccination campaigns which will kick off today. The Federal Ministry of Health urged State governments and armed movements to allow movement of the teams. The campaign will target 6213931 children.

### ***90% of UNSC Members Concerned over Ocampo's Step: Chinese Envoy***

**Sudan Vision** reports Chinese Envoy Liu Guijin yesterday embarked on a series of talks with Sudanese officials including President Bashir. He discussed ICC, Qatari initiative to address Darfur and the Sudan People Initiative. The Chinese envoy said over 90% of Security Council member states are concerned by the ICC Prosecutor's charges against President Bashir.

According to **Al-Ahdath** newspaper, the Sudanese Government is currently reviewing new Chinese proposals to overcome the ICC problem and to mobilize support for the Qatari initiative which is also supported by European countries.

**Akhbar Al Yom** reports Government agreed to participation of investigators and judges from AU and Arab League to supervise trials of Ali Kushayb and others accused of committing war crimes in Darfur. According to the paper, the Chinese envoy conveyed to the MFA conditions from Paris, London and Washington for addressing the ICC indictment of President Bashir.

### ***NCP will not compromise its power share – Nafie***

**Al-Ahdath** reports Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie who also handles Darfur dossier said his party (NCP) would not agree to formation of a national government at the expense of its current share in power. Nafie has also declared categorical rejection to demands for "one Darfur region" discussed at Kenana forum recently.

According to the paper, the Senior Presidential Assistant Minni Minnawi left for Darfur yesterday

for consultations with JEM (Khalil) and SLM (Abdul Wahid) field commanders to convince them to participate in upcoming negotiations in Qatar.

### ***Government freezes agreement with Kenya***

**Rai Al-Shaab** sources in Khartoum revealed that Sudan Government is angry at SPLA rearming via Kenya. According to the sources, Khartoum reacted by freezing an agreement to supply Kenya with fuel at low prices and also decided to lower the level of its delegation to IGAD meeting, sending only an MFA State Minister to attend instead of President Bashir.

**Khartoum Monitor** reports Kenyan Ambassador in Khartoum yesterday held a press conference where he refuted a report by **Al-Intibaha** newspapers on 21 October alleging that Kenya off-loaded an arms shipment destined for SPLA at the New Site in Eastern equatorial State. He said the reports are blatant lies aimed at causing tension and spoiling the cordial relations between Kenya and Sudan. He said Kenya has no interest in de-stabilizing the region already beset with natural and man-made disasters.

### ***International Organizations Target Nations' Governments***

**Sudan Vision** reports Presidential Advisor, Bona Malwal said basic target and objective of the international organizations is to govern the countries on behalf of their nations. He pointed out that the "ICC Prosecutor General's arrest warrant" for President Al-Bashir aims at targeting Sudan and not Al-Bashir in person. Speaking at symposium organized by SMC, Malwal said the ICC decision was intended to destroy Sudan's peace and unity.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Abyei joint Police calls to complete number of forces***

The commander of the joint police force in Abyei Colonel James Monday called on NCP and SPLM to complete the numbers of the joint police force in the area as provided for by the Abyei roadmap agreement.

The commander said they were waiting for Sudan government to contribute 100 policemen, adding his forces are lacking vehicles and equipment. (**Miraya FM**)

### ***Public service commission completes southern appointments***

The public service commission has announced that committees tasked to interview candidates from southern Sudan for the National public service jobs have completed their task.

The secretary of the commission Hammadna Allaha Mohamed Al Tahir said that the results of the interviews will be out next week in a ceremony to be addressed by the first Vice President, President of the government of southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardeit.

Mr. Hammadna Allah told Miraya FM that the applicants for the job were less than the allocated 20% positions provided for in the CPA. (**Miraya FM**)

### ***China offers 'concrete suggestions' to Sudan over ICC row***

October 26, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – Beijing provided Khartoum with advice on how to deal with a crisis resulting from the indictment of president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir by the International

Criminal Court (ICC), a senior Chinese official said today.

China's special envoy to Africa Liu Guijin speaking to reporters today in Khartoum said he held talks with Sudanese officials "to give them our advice and to make a few concrete suggestions".

However the Chinese diplomat did not provide details on the content of the message he carried.

Guijin who toured Washington, Paris and London before arriving in Khartoum said that the ICC issue was on his agenda in his discussions with Western officials.

"I used those opportunities... to have consultations with our partners there in the West as to how could we work together to seek a kind of soft landing of the charge" he said.

"We hope the ICC indictment could have a kind of soft landing so as the political process could be continued... and the humanitarian as well as security situation there could be further improved" Liu told reporters.

But the Chinese official made no mention of sponsoring a resolution in the UN Security (UNSC) to suspend the ICC move as demanded by Sudan and a number of regional organizations.

Guijin said that Western nations want to see Sudan facilitating the deployment of African Union-United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur (UNAMID) and pushing for a political settlement of the crisis the war ravaged region.

The Chinese official praised Sudan cooperation with the deployment of peacekeepers and criticized Darfur rebels for boycotting peace talks.

He also said the international community must recognize steps taken by Sudan to prosecute Darfur war crimes including recent announcement that Ali Kushayb a militia leader wanted by the ICC will stand trial.

The move has been met with widespread skepticism given the fact that Sudanese officials have long claimed that Kushayb has been previously cleared of any wrongdoing in court. (**ST**)

### ***SPLM not renegotiating the CPA - official***

October 26, 2008 (JUBA) – A high ranking official of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said his party had not engaged in renegotiating the provisions of the peace deal it signed in January 2005 with the National Congress Party's led government in Khartoum.

Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development in the Government of Southern Sudan, Michael Makuei Lueth, who is also member of the Joint Executive Political Committee that oversees implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), said the peace partners were not renegotiating the CPA, but looking for ways and means to implement it.

Lueth was responding to a question posed to him in an interview with the Southern Sudan TV whether or not the ongoing joint dialogue between the two peace partners on CPA implementation amounted to its renegotiation.

In June this year, NCP and SPLM had to strike another roadmap agreement to resolve a three-year stalemate over implementation of the Abyei protocol after the NCP rejected, with impunity,

the experts report on the Abyei boundaries.

The roadmap agreement has, in addition to implementation of security and wealth sharing protocol, provided for establishment of the Abyei Area administration with temporary boundaries while a permanent solution to the boundaries is to be sought in the international court of tribunal in The Hague.

Makuei said the CPA was silent about the role of international community in case of any violations by any party to the agreement.

“There were no mechanisms put in place in the CPA as to what should be the role of IGAD or international community if any party to the agreement violates provisions in the agreement,” he said.

He explained that only the Assessment and Evaluation Commission is what the CPA has provided for with a limited mandate of just informing or reporting any violations to the parties concerned without any punitive measures against the violator.

He said the implementation of the peace deal depended only on political will of both the National Congress Party and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement.

Makuei also said the people of Southern Sudan in 2011 referendum would judge whether unity of the country is made attractive or not by the peace partners, particularly the NCP.

The SPLM official however said “non-implementation of some provisions of the CPA would have no impact on the people of Southern Sudan in exercising their referendum unless the other party (NCP) tries to obstruct the exercise.” (ST)

### ***JEM says not behind abduction of Chinese oil workers***

October 26, 2008 (LONDON) — Darfur rebel movement said today it is not involved in the kidnapping of Chinese oil workers saying some of its members could undertook the move pushed by local motivations.

Three Chinese engineers and six other workers employed by the China National Petroleum Corporation in South Kordofan were kidnapped on October 19. The head of the kidnappers, Abu Humaid Ahmed Dannay, who is also a Misseriya, claimed to be the chief of JEM in Kordofan.

El-Tahir Adam El-Faki, Speaker of Legislative Council of the Justice and Equality Movement told Sudan Tribune today that (JEM) is not behind the kidnapping of the Chinese oil worker because the abduction of civilians is not part of its policy.

However, he said the Misseriya and other ethnic groups of Kordofan look with anger to the foreign oil firm because they destroyed the local ecosystem and do not involve them in the oil industry or provide help to create new activities in the region.

El-Faki further asserted that the local populations in southern Kordofan are angered by the action of the Chinese government which provides Khartoum money and weapons to carry out its war in Darfur.



He added that the Chinese oil firms are ignoring local communities and devastated the environment, grab land and other resources. "They meant by this abduction to send a clear message to the Chinese to change their policy in the region," he said.

Last Saturday, the head of the kidnappers Dannay told the London based Asharq Al-Awsat that they are ready to release the 9 Chinese but they want the Chinese companies leave the area. "We don't have any material demands. We want Chinese companies to leave the region immediately because they work with the government," he said.

The Sudanese authorities dismissed yesterday reports about military action to free the abductees saying they didn't want to put their live at risk. The government and the Chinese embassy in Khartoum negotiate indirectly with the kidnappers through local chiefs and tribesmen to secure their release.

The spokesperson of the foreign ministry Ali sadiq today said "The Chinese envoy has conveyed his thanks to the government of Sudan and the local authorities who are working to achieve the release of the abducted people."

Sadiq was speaking following a meeting held between the Sudanese officials and the visiting Chinese envoy for Darfur, Liu Guijin in the foreign ministry on Sunday. **(ST)**

### ***Sudan says financial crisis fallout will impact oil revenue***

October 26 (**Sudan Tribune Website**) – The Sudanese government acknowledged today that the global financial crisis will have a negative impact on the economy and the 2009 budget.

The spokesperson of the Sudanese cabinet Omer Salih told the official news agency (SUNA) that the credit turmoil and its possible repercussions were subject of discussion in the session held on Saturday.

Salih said that the governor of Sudan's Central bank and the finance minister submitted a report which concluded that the country is not immune from the crisis.

"The report stated that Sudan is not directly affected due to the sanctions imposed years ago which served as a big economic protector" the Sudanese official said.

"However the report affirmed that the economy will be impacted by the crisis because of the decline in oil prices which affects the real revenue of the state" he added.

Oil exports represent 65% of revenue for Sudan and helped fuel its unprecedented economic growth despite US economic sanctions.

### ***Hard-line Sudan politician may hold key to Darfur conflict***

October 26 (**Los Angeles Times**) By Edmund Sanders

Presidential advisor Nafie Ali Nafie says atrocities were exaggerated and blames U.S. 'propaganda.' Still, experts say his clout and blunt style could lead to a breakthrough on Darfur.

Reporting from Khartoum, Sudan — He's accused of torturing enemies, cozying up to Osama bin Laden in the 1990s and plotting to assassinate Egypt's president.

But presidential advisor Nafie Ali Nafie says his moderation and pragmatism won him his latest assignment: overseeing the Sudanese government's response to the conflict in Darfur.

"I was picked for this because I'm a mild person," said Nafie, maintaining a wary smile and unflappable demeanor throughout an 80-minute interview in his office here.

Mild isn't a word many others use to describe Nafie, the leader of the hard-line faction in the

ruling National Congress Party.

"Nafie is viewed by many as one of the most influential and brutal security officials in Sudan," longtime Africa analyst Ted Dagne said.

Now, this son of a sesame farmer who got a doctorate in plant genetics at UC Riverside may hold the key not only to Darfur, but also to the future of Sudan's Islamist cadre, in which his power is seen as second only to President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir.

"He is first among equals in terms of policy decisions in the regime," said John Prendergast, an Africa advisor in the Clinton administration who now runs the anti-genocide Enough Project.

Asked about Nafie's growing influence, one Sudanese official said, "To say the truth, Nafie is now No. 1. He seems to be doing everything."

Nafie's ascent is all the more surprising because he lacks the usual traits that spell success in Sudan. He has no formal military training, though there are rumors of a stint in Iran. His Islamist credentials pale compared with other ideologues. As a politician, he's described as ham-fisted, unable to restrain a confrontational style that often alienates his audience.

This summer, when Nafie declared that Bashir was the best candidate for president "whether people like it or not," voters weren't sure whether that was an expression of confidence or a veiled threat.

Nafie, a former agriculture professor who was plucked to serve as head of intelligence and security from 1989 to 1995, has often played the "bad cop" in one of Africa's most powerful and long-lasting regimes.

"He was my interrogator," said Farouk Mohammed Ibrahim, a former University of Khartoum science professor and government critic who was arrested in 1989 and held in one of Sudan's notorious, secret "ghost houses" for 12 days.

"I was tortured, beaten, flogged in his presence," Ibrahim said. "He was administering the whole thing. He did it all in such a cool manner, as if he were sipping a coffee."

In his characteristic style, Nafie expressed no regrets, saying opposition activists at the time were planning counter-coups and civil war. "We were there to protect ourselves," he said with a shrug. "Definitely we were not there to play cards with them."

In his Khartoum office recently, Nafie, 61, deflected questions about his personal views or policy recommendations on Darfur and other hot-button issues, preferring to stay behind the ruling party's official line, which he says is reached by consensus.

"This process of always trying to group us into tough guys and reasonable guys isn't good," he said. "I don't like to personalize things."

But analysts and diplomats said Nafie is often the one who puts on the brakes when it comes to international relations. He opposed allowing U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur and believed that the ruling party gave up too much power in signing a 2005 U.S.-brokered peace treaty that ended a 21-year civil war with southern rebels.

He insisted that he never wanted control of what the government calls the "Darfur file." It landed on his imposing 10-foot-wide desk after a car accident killed the government's previous point person.

Asked the secret to his success, Nafie credited, perhaps with a touch of false modesty, a lack of ambition. "I survived because I didn't care if I survived," he said.

But supporters and critics alike say Nafie has his eye on succeeding Bashir, even if few believe that he would ever betray the president, whom he is always careful to avoid overshadowing.

Regarding Darfur, Nafie said claims of genocide are U.S.-manufactured "political propaganda" designed to topple Sudan's regime.

"The West is using Darfur to destabilize Sudan because Sudan is seen as a rebel government and a bad example for the rest of Africa," Nafie said. "The endgame is to install a puppet, or at least weak, government so they can take our oil."

Nafie acknowledged that the government organized private militias as a counter-insurgency tactic, but denied that "ethnic cleansing" was ever a driving factor in the campaign. He blamed



much of the bloodshed on tribal feuding.

"Definitely there were some villages destroyed, but not all of those were burned by groups that fought with the government," he said. "They were done by tribal raids that had nothing to do with the government."

He said Darfur's death toll, which the government estimates at 10,000 people, was the price of the insurgency.

"If you say some of those who fought with the government also committed atrocities, again this is possible in a war, when somebody is not well organized. But nobody can claim that this was a deliberate strategy of the government."

That's exactly, however, what the International Criminal Court is alleging in its case against top Sudanese officials, including Bashir. The court is expected to issue an arrest warrant for him in coming weeks, and other officials, including Nafie, are under investigation.

Sudan has launched a diplomatic offensive to persuade the United Nations to postpone the case. But U.S. officials are balking, saying the humanitarian crisis and violence in Darfur have worsened since Nafie took over.

"He's had the Darfur file for a while now, and we would have hoped that there would be more progress," said Richard Williamson, the U.S. envoy to Sudan, whose first meeting with Nafie quickly turned into a shouting match.

"He made some dismissive attacks about the U.S. interest in humanitarian suffering, and I pushed back," said Williamson, who once described Sudan's leaders as "thugs."

Nafie defended his brash style. "I don't like diplomatic language," he said.

"You have to be transparent."

Some diplomats praised Nafie's straightforward approach and blunt analysis, saying they often prefer to negotiate with him because he rarely says things he thinks others want to hear.

"We often find ourselves saying, 'We really hate Nafie, but he's telling the truth,' " said one Western diplomat in Khartoum.

Nafie's style and clout as a hard-liner put him in a unique position to reach a breakthrough on Darfur, if he wants to, experts say. Said the diplomat, "Only Nixon can go to China."

### ***China wants Sudan war crimes crisis 'soft landing': envoy***

KHARTOUM (AFP) — China's special envoy to Darfur on Sunday called for a "soft landing" to a crisis sparked when the world court prosecutor demanded a formal indictment of the Sudanese head of state for war crimes.

"I am here for consultations with the government of Sudan and to give them our advice and to make a few concrete suggestions," said China's special envoy, Liu Guijin, fresh from talks in London, Paris and Washington.

"I used those opportunities... to have consultations with our partners there in the West as to how could we work together to seek a kind of soft landing of the charge," he said.

He said the West would like Sudan to do more to speed up the deployment of a UN-led peacekeeping operation in Darfur and move forward with a political process to resolve the nearly six-year conflict. "Anyhow things are moving towards a good direction," Liu said.

He praised Sudan for cooperating with the peacekeeping deployment and for indicating a willingness to resume political talks -- stressing that other "political forces" would also have to agree to sit down at the table.

UN officials have also praised a considerable improvement in cooperation from the Sudanese government over the deployment.

The envoy also backed Khartoum's appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate atrocities in Darfur -- a move that incited strong criticism from rights activists abroad.

"The international community in general, or as a whole, needs to take a balanced perspective on the issue here in Darfur," Liu told reporters. "We hope the ICC indictment could have a kind of soft landing so as the political process could be continued... and the humanitarian as well as

security situation there could be further improved," Liu told reporters.

### ***Accusations of weapons delivery could harm Sudan-Kenya ties- envoy***

October 26 (***Sudan Tribune Website***) — The Kenyan ambassador to Sudan once again dismissed Khartoum accusations that his government was involved in weapons delivery to southern Sudan. He further said that these allegations could harm bilateral ties.

Sudan alleged that Kenya is involved in weapons delivery to Southern Sudan government via the Ukrainian ship seized off the Somali coast. The foreign ministry summoned the ambassador of Kenya to Sudan on October 13 regarding arms shipments to southern Sudan.

Ambassador Robert Mutua Ngesu told reporters today that the hijacked weapons by the Somali pirates are belonging to the Kenyan army and have nothing with southern Sudan army.

Ngesu further said that Khartoum should stop such accusations because it could deteriorate bilateral relations between the two countries. He further said that Kenya is very keen to the political stability of its northern neighbour.

This week the Sudanese government decided to send a low level delegation to attend an Inter-Government Authority on Development meeting to be held in Nairobi. The Vice-President Ali Osman Taha was planned to head the delegation.

The meeting will discuss the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was sponsored by the Kenyan government. The Sudanese decision was seen as an escalation of the controversy on the hijacked Ukrainian ship.

### ***Somali pirate kingpins going unpunished***

Mon 27 Oct By Andrew Cawthorne

NAIROBI (***Reuters***) - New international navy patrols may deter piracy off Somalia, but the kingpins remain untroubled enjoying the fruits of this year's rash of hijackings in cities around the world, a regional maritime official said.

"There really isn't a military solution. The boys on the boats are just the foot-soldiers," said Andrew Mwangura, whose East African Seafarers' Association monitors piracy.

"The commanders and generals -- the financiers and the organisers behind it all -- are in Dubai, Nairobi, Mombasa, and even Canada and London, sitting in their hotels, communicating via laptops, and making big money."

Scores of attacks in the busy Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean shipping lanes off Somalia this year have shocked the industry, causing higher insurance costs, bringing millions of dollars of ransom payments, and stirring a belated international response.

The European Union and NATO alliance are sending ships to the area, while the U.S. and French navies are patrolling, and a Russian warship has also been ordered in.

While some advocate a hard strike on the pirates, there are complicating factors: risks to hostages, different locations of the various gangs, problems identifying who pirates are before they have taken a boat, and international legal complications once suspects are captured.

"The foreign patrols should calm the situation. But they cannot just attack a ship, it's not that simple," Mwangura said in an interview on Sunday. "We need to go to the roots."

Mwangura, who goes to court in Mombasa on Thursday charged by the Kenyan government with "alarmist" information about one ship's capture, believes a network of Somali businessmen abroad and corrupt accomplices are the driving force for piracy.

"Many people are making good money from instability in Somalia," he said.

Mwangura irked the Kenyan government by saying tanks and other military equipment on a Ukrainian ship captured last month off Somalia were bound for South Sudan and not Kenya.

Embarrassed by the accusation, given that it sponsored a 2005 north-south peace deal in Sudan, Kenya has accused Mwangura of being a "spokesman" for the pirates and accused him of spreading false information and possessing \$2 of marijuana.

Nairobi says the tanks were for its military, though Western diplomats in the region back Mwangura's version.

"They want to silence me, it is obvious," said Mwangura. He was in Nairobi over the weekend to meet Ukrainian officials about the plight of the hijacked MV Faina boat, with its controversial military cargo and 20 crew members.

Mwangura said authorities in the region were turning a blind eye to illegal fishing, toxic dumping, drug- and gun-running, illegal charcoal shipments, and human trafficking in Somali waters that were all indirectly fuelling piracy.

"All these businesses inter-link. A foreign ship pays a warlord to be allowed to fish illegally off Somalia, and that money then funds the piracy," he said.

"But when you start denouncing these things, powerful people get upset because you are spoiling their game."

Mwangura said Somali pirates were still holding about eight ships, with more than 200 hostages aboard.

About 30 ships have been hijacked this year out of 87 attacks, according to his organisation which collects information from relatives, crews and other maritime groups.

The situation is so bad, some ships are considering going round the Cape of Good Hope off South Africa. "This would add several weeks to the duration of many ships' voyages and would have severe consequences for international trade," he said.

### ***Analysts fear Ugandan rebel chaos spreading***

26 October - YAMBIO, Sudan (**AFP**) — Renewed brutal attacks and forced recruitment by Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have raised fears that the rebels are destabilising terrain straddling three African nations, analysts say.

Since September, a series of raids in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and southern Sudan has been blamed on the rebels, and analysts say their forces could also threaten areas of the Central African Republic (CAR).

A UN report this month accused the northern Ugandan fighters of serious human rights abuses in attacks in northeastern DRC that killed more than 200 people.

The rebels "conducted a campaign of killing, systematic abduction of children and burning of almost all houses," the report said.

Fleeing refugees said the rebels have returned to their trademark pattern of surprise attacks and abductions, after mostly minor raids during the last three years of peace talks.

"This time was different: they were killing, burning the huts, destroying the food, and they took the children with them from the school into the bush," said Denangwa John, a Congolese farmer who fled to Sudan.

Local officials say at least 100 children were snatched from southern Sudan and another 100 from DRC, with thousands displaced. The attacks follow earlier raids along the eastern jungles of the CAR, local authorities say.

LRA rebel chief Joseph Kony began his battle 20 years ago, claiming to fight against the marginalisation of the people of northern Uganda.

But the LRA's ferocious attacks, in which rebels chopped off the limbs and lips of their victims, often seemed more aimed at civilians than the military.

In the 1990s, the rebels began moving into neighbouring south Sudan, reportedly backed by Khartoum as a proxy force against southern rebels.

Since 2005, when Sudan signed a peace deal to end its long-running north-south civil war, the rebels slowly shifted to remote jungles in DRC.

"The LRA has gone from Uganda, but with this wave of abductions it is consolidating its forces in isolated areas of south Sudan, CAR and the DR Congo," said Francois Grignon of the International Crisis Group think-tank.

With oil-rich south Sudan due to vote on independence in 2011, some fear the LRA may reprise its role as a proxy force for those keen to block the emergence of a fully autonomous south.

"They are a force that could be used in future against south Sudan," Grignon warned.

A renewed LRA campaign could have a major impact on the region, causing instability in

nations still trying to recover from their own civil wars.

"The LRA is seeking a role in the conflicts affecting the area, and has also sustained links with groups in Sudan," said Tim Allen, an expert on the LRA at the London School of Economics.

"The LRA has long had a role in Sudan -- linked to the antipathy of groups in the far south towards the Dinka," he added, referring to the ethnic group dominant in much of the southern leadership.

Despite three years of peace talks, Kony -- who is the subject of an International Criminal Court warrant for massacres and the rape and mutilation of civilians -- has repeatedly failed to appear to sign the final peace deal.

"The LRA has received various resources in the course of the peace negotiations from a variety of actors," Allen said.

South Sudan provided food and basic supplies to the LRA during the talks to stop them raiding areas around their bases.

However, many fear the potential involvement of Khartoum, although analysts admit there is no direct evidence.

"It has been able to re-arm and reorganise," Allen added. "It is also the case that it has always retained a significant military capacity."

LRA spokesman David Nyekorach-Matsanga insists Kony remains "committed" to peace, blaming recent attacks on other unnamed militias. "The LRA is not recruiting new soldiers or making a new offensive," Matsanga told AFP.

But the refugees in southern Sudan say they know the fighters are LRA.

There is talk of military pressure mounting against the rebels, with troops from the DRC, backed by UN peacekeepers, reported to be planning a crackdown.

Southern Sudan says it has beefed up forces along its stretch of the border, and raised the possibility of offensive action against the rebels.

But a direct assault is unlikely on guerrillas with years of jungle experience who are able to slip across borders with apparent ease.

Allen warned that current forces -- including those from south Sudan, Uganda, the DRC and the UN peacekeepers -- would be "unlikely to achieve a military victory or solution without significant external assistance".

Those in affected areas are gloomy for the future.

"The peace talks never addressed the main point: what can anyone offer Kony so that he would want to come out of the bush?" said John Patchanize, smalltime trader whose business between Sudan and the DRC is blocked by fear of attacks on the border.

"The truth is that Kony is a warlord who understands one thing -- war."

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