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Media Monitoring Report

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Local News Headlines

- The kidnapers of the Chinese oil workers liquidate five of them (all dailies)
- Chinese Embassy strongly condemns killing of five of the kidnapped Chinese oil workers (SUNA, Al Sudani)
- President Al-Bashir to visit Saudi Arabia Wednesday (Al Khartoum)
- Presidency of Forum of “People of Sudan” begins deliberations on recommendations of specialized committees (Al Ahdath, Akher lahza)
- Alor Holds US Administration Responsible for Tarrying Relations (Al-Ayam, Al-khartoum)
- Kenyan Embassy denies involvement in SPLA arming (Sudan Vision newspaper)

Website/International News Headlines

- Four Chinese workers killed in Sudan, FM confirms (Xinhua)
- China condemns Sudan killings as terrorist crime (Reuters)
- Sudan to recover bodies of Chinese hostages (AFP)
- Conflicting reports on the fate of Chinese hostages in Sudan (Sudan Tribune)
- Sudan and Chad to Re-Exchange Ambassadors in First Week of Next November (SMC)
- Taha receives Chinese envoy on Darfur (SUNA)
- WHO Praises Sudan Commitment to Polio Eradication Strategy (Sudan Vision)
- South Sudan Holds First Debate on Independence Referendum (Bloomberg)
- SPLA draft bill tables to SSLA (Miraya FM)
- JEM & SLM/Unity faction urges for adoption of ONE region in Darfur (Miraya FM)

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Highlights

The kidnapers of the Chinese oil workers liquidate five of them

All dailies The kidnapers of the Chinese workers at the oil fields in West Kordofan area have liquidated five of the abducted persons in cold blood, wounded two who are currently under governmental care, while the remaining two are still being held by the kidnapers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement issued Monday night. The statement pointed out that the coward criminal act took place, while the Sudanese security units were monitoring the situation closely and following up the efforts of the release of the Chinese workers by peaceful means through the efforts of the mediators of the leaders of the area. The Ministry expressed its condolences to the families of the victims and the Chinese government and people, affirming its keenness on continuation of the cooperation with China. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also stressed that such irrational acts will not realize their objective of undermining Sudan's relations with its friends.

Chinese Embassy strongly condemns killing of five of the kidnapped Chinese oil workers

Several newspapers and the government news agency, *SUNA*, reported that the Chinese Embassy in Khartoum has strongly condemned the killing of five of the kidnapped Chinese oil workers in West Kordofan area. The spokesman said in a statement to *SUNA* that the Chinese embassy is making contacts with the Sudanese authorities to have more information on the incident. He called on the authorities to take more measures for the protection of the Chinese working in Sudan. The spokesman ruled out that the incident would have any negative effect on the Sudanese-Chinese relations. On the government side, *Al-Sudani* reported that Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Spokesman, Ali Al-Sadik pointed out that the kidnapers wanted only to carry out their threats made earlier of forcing the companies to leave the area. Al-Sadik added in a statement to *SUNA* that the Justice and Equality Movement have continued to commit crimes against innocent civilians, saying that the silence of the international community encouraged it to do so. Al-Sadik said that such acts are against the values of the Sudanese people, pointing out that the Sudanese authorities will spare no efforts for the protection of the workers in the oil fields and all investments in Sudan.

President Al-Bashir to visit Saudi Arabia Wednesday

Al-Khartoum reported today that President Al-Bashir will visit officially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, where he will hold talks with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdelaziz, on bilateral relations and means of boosting joint cooperation besides regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Presidency of Forum of "People of Sudan" begins deliberations on recommendations of specialized committees

Al Ahdath, Akher lahza The Presidency Committee of People of Sudan on solving the Darfur problem, chaired by the President of the Republic, began on Monday its deliberations on the reports and recommendations by the forum's seven specialized sub-committees. Rapporteur of the Information Committee Maryam Takas said in a statement to *SUNA* that the Presidency Committee will make its technical and objective observations on the subcommittee's reports. She explained that the Commission of the General Rapporteur of the Forum, headed by Prof. El-Tayeb Haj Attia, will be able to set a date for the convocation of the General Conference

immediately after the Presidency Committee concludes its deliberations on the reports. She explained that some committees requested assistance from national experts and technicians, while the development and services committee was assisted by experts from the States, development funds and UN. She pointed out that the office of the Commission of the General Rapporteur will call the General Conference of the Forum to display the final drafts of these reports, in order to be approved and then the final report will be an official document for the people of Sudan. The Forum of People of Sudan on Solving Problem of Darfur set up the following specialized committees: solution options, IDPs, refugees and voluntary repatriation, justice, reconciliations and social peace, external dimension of Darfur problem, development and services, information and security committee.

Alor Holds US Administration Responsible for Tarrying Relations

Al-Ayam, Al-khartoum Foreign Minister Deng Alor loaded the US Administration with responsibility for lag in US-Sudan relations during the past period, describing the relations mostly at a standstill excepting some developments such as humanitarian aid efforts. In the report he submitted yesterday before the National Assembly on the performance of his Ministry, Alor said he considered the dialogues that took place during the past period between the US State Department and the Sudanese Foreign Ministry in Khartoum, Washington and Rome have been procedural despite positive moves undertaken by the Sudanese government in respect of pursuit of peace in Darfur and the ongoing efforts with the African Union, added to the Arab League initiative. Alor reiterated that Sudan will have to wait until the US elections in the coming November to mend ties with the United States.

For its part, the National Assembly referred the Foreign Minister's report to the concerned Assembly's committee for perusal and submitting a report. The Foreign Minister's report pivoted around three basic points: countering aftermath of Darfur crisis, African Union's efforts to override obstacles that impede full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and its role in countering the ICC step against the President of the Republic.

Alor further stated that exchange of ambassadors between Sudan and Chad will take place on the 10th of the coming November, pointing out that this step will precede by meetings of technical and military experts in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, during the period 11-13 of the same month. In respect of means of handling the issue of the International Criminal Court, Alor said the government's attention is now focused on resolving Darfur issue which he held as the key to solve all the problems of the country. He also revealed in his report that Sudan has opened new missions in Vietnam, Ghana and Venezuela in addition to consulates in Gulu (Uganda) and Istanbul (Turkey).

Kenyan Embassy denies involvement in SPLA arming

Sudan Vision reported that Kenyan Ambassador in Khartoum, Robert M. Ngesu held a press conference in his office during which he denied the Kenyan government involvement in sending an airplane loaded with weapons destined for SPLA. He added that Kenya has a helicopter working with UNMIS in southern Sudan for supply purposes and it is working under the permission of the Sudanese government. On Darfur issue the Ambassador said that Kenya has its positive stance and it supports Arab League and African Union positions.

Websites / International News Headlines

Four Chinese workers killed in Sudan, FM confirms

(*Xinhua*)-Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed on Tuesday that four, instead of five as earlier reported, of the nine kidnapped Chinese workers in Sudan had been killed. Four others were rescued and the other one was still missing, according to the Foreign Ministry. Nine Chinese workers from the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) were kidnapped in an oil field near the western Sudanese region of Darfur on 18 October. The Sudanese side earlier reported to the Chinese embassy that five workers were killed on Monday, with two rescued and two missing. It revised the numbers late Tuesday afternoon, according to the Ministry.

China condemns Sudan killings as terrorist crime

(*Reuters*) - China condemned on Tuesday the killing of its citizens in Sudan as a terrorist crime but said it would continue investing in the volatile, oil-producing African country.

The men killed Monday were among nine Chinese oil workers kidnapped in central Sudan more than a week ago. They died in a failed rescue attempt, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a news conference. She expressed "pained grief and condolences" for their families and said President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao had ordered Chinese officials to do all they could to ensure the safe return of the men still missing. "We express our strong outrage and condemnation of the terrorist crime of the bandits' cruel and inhuman murders of the unarmed Chinese personnel," Jiang said. She did not give any details of the men's backgrounds. Jiang said she had no details of the rescue attempt or whether Chinese officials were directly involved.

She said China would not be deterred from continued investment in Sudan, where its oil stake and arms sales have drawn condemnation from critics of Khartoum's policies in Darfur, where bloody ethnic strife has raged since 2003. "In the future we will attach importance to continuing friendly policies toward Sudan and developing friendly, mutually beneficial cooperation with Sudan," Jiang told a news conference in Beijing. She said Chinese investment benefited the people of Sudan. "We also ask that Sudan, while ensuring the safety of our missing personnel, make all-out rescue efforts to ensure the safety of lives and property of Chinese personnel," she said.

This was the third such kidnapping in the energy-producing state of South Kordofan in the past year, marking an escalation of risk in the region, where China has a big stake. South Kordofan borders Darfur. Beijing has contributed to a peacekeeping mission seeking to end the strife, but critics say its oil deals and arms sales help prop up Khartoum and abet its policies in Darfur.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry blamed the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), a Darfur rebel group, for seizing and killing the Chinese. A London-based JEM official has denied the group was involved. The nine workers were snatched near a small oilfield where they were doing contract work for the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC). The company is a consortium, led by China's CNPC that includes India's ONGC, Malaysia's Petronas and Sudan's state-owned Sudapet. Jiang said Chinese officials and CNPC had formed a team seeking the return of the kidnapped workers.

Sudan to recover bodies of Chinese hostages

(*AFP*) The bodies of five kidnapped Chinese oil workers and two of their injured colleagues are to be airlifted to Khartoum today before flying on to China, a Sudanese government said today.

Chinese and Sudanese ambassadors flew to an area in Kordofan in central Sudan where Khartoum says the hostages were killed, to recover the bodies and were expected to return to the

capital in the next few hours. "The bodies are now moving from the place where the incident took place, to Khartoum and from Khartoum probably to China," Sudanese foreign ministry official Ali Yousuf told *AFP*. The circumstances surrounding the deaths are shadowy and the fate of the two remaining hostages is unknown. Sudan denies there was any confrontation between security forces and the kidnappers.

Conflicting reports on the fate of Chinese hostages in Sudan

(Sudan Tribune) The Sudanese government announced today that Darfur rebels killed five out of nine Chinese oil workers who were kidnapped last week. Khartoum said that two of the hostages managed to escape while the remaining two are still held captives.

"It happened around 3:00 pm (1200 GMT). Those people from JEM killed five Chinese and two of the Chinese workers managed to escape. They are now with the government" foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq told *AFP*. But the daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* published in London quoted Abu Humaid Ahmed Dannay, a leader of the kidnappers saying that none of the Chinese workers have been killed. "We want to end this thing peacefully and hand over the hostages to the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM)". We do not trust the ruling National Congress Party (NCP)" he told the newspaper. Danai warned of a "bloodbath" if Sudanese military attempts to use force to free the hostages saying they are surrounded by ground troops and helicopters. On Saturday the Sudanese army dismissed news reports that they clashed with the kidnappers wounding two workers.

The former governor of Kordofan, Abdel-Rasool Al-Nour told the government sponsored *Sudanese Media Center* website that the kidnappers do not belong to Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Darfur rebels as Khartoum has claimed.

The Sudanese foreign minister spokesperson said that the bodies and the two wounded former hostages were recovered by Sudanese government forces in a small village in western Kordofan, and the injured are undergoing medical treatment. "This happened without any confrontation with the abductors, while the government was trying to solve the problem through peaceful means" said Sadiq. But one local leader denied the official version of events.

"There was fighting between the Sudanese army and the kidnappers. As a result of this fighting, the five have been killed" he told *AFP* by telephone from Kordofan, asking that his identity not be disclosed.

In New York the Sudanese envoy to the UN told Reuters that the UN Security Council (UNSC) must take actions against JEM for carrying out the kidnapping. Sudan's envoy Abdel-Haleem Abdel-Mahmood said he would raise the issue on Tuesday when the 15-nation council meets to discuss deployment of a joint African Union – United Nations (UNAMID) peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Abdel-Mahmood said his country wants the UNSC to issue "a strong condemnation" but added that this would not be sufficient. "The leniency of the council has encouraged them....It is time for taking measures against those who destroy the peace process and take the lives of ordinary citizens" he said. The Sudanese diplomat also accused the Darfur rebels of attempting to sabotage his country's relation with its Chinese ally. China has been accused by Western countries and human right groups of blocking international sanctions against Sudan to protect their oil investments.

Sudan and Chad to Re-Exchange Ambassadors in First Week of Next November

(SMC) Sudan and Chad would re-exchange ambassadors during November 7 - 10 prior to normalization of the bilateral relations which witnessed a tension following the aggression of the Justice and Equality Movement on Omdurman on May 10, said the Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, in a statement to the press after addressing the National Assembly. He said that a meeting of

concerned technicians and military men would be held in N'djamena from 12 to 14 November to conduct preparations for normalizing the Sudanese - Chadian Relations. In his statement before the National Assembly on Monday, the Foreign Minister said that Darfur issue and the subsequent move of the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) represented a focus for the external activity of the government through a number of axes that included the formation of the African Union mission, adoption of the tripartite formula of cooperation between the government, the United Nations and the African Union, in addition to the African role to contain the allegations of the ICC prosecutor. Concerning the confrontation to the claims of the ICC prosecutor, the Foreign Minister said that Sudan has preferred adoption of an immediate pre-emptive plan and gained extensive international support and understanding to its rejection of the ICC move. Within its plan to confront the ICC prosecutor's allegation, the minister said that Sudan dispatched presidential envoys to a number of countries and exerted efforts within the Arab League, the African Peace and Security Council, the Security Council, the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York that called for stoppage of the ICC procedure to pave the way for the peace process in Sudan, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) which decided to sponsor an international conference for rehabilitation of Darfur next year. On the Sudanese - European level, the Foreign Minister said that the Sudanese - European relations are progressing slowly for reform and normalization for the common interest. He indicated that he visited Britain, France, the Netherlands and Norway toward normalization of Sudan relations with these countries, boosting the cooperation for solution of Darfur issue and dealing with the ICC prosecutor's move. The Foreign Minister said that Sudan is looking forward for positive stances of the European Union and stable relations between Sudan and the European Union under the principles of respect of the nations' sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs. He said that Sudan is hopeful that the European Union will fulfill its commitments which were declared at the Donors Conference in Oslo, explaining that the European party has fulfilled only 18% of its commitments. The minister referred in his address to Sudan efforts to consolidate its relations with the Asian, African, Arab and Latin American countries, and reviewed the efforts to open new embassies in a number of countries and to upgrade the diplomatic representation with other states. He also tackled the government efforts in the field of humanitarian aid, and affirmed Sudan commitment to live up to its pledge on issues of human rights.

Taha receives Chinese envoy on Darfur

(SUNA) Vice President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohamed Taha met on Yesterday at his office at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers the Chinese envoy on peace in Darfur, Liu Guijin, in the presence of the Chinese Ambassador to Sudan. The Chinese envoy, who also met Assistant of the President of the Republic Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie at the Republican Palace Monday, said in a press statement that his visit to Sudan and his meetings with the Sudanese officials focusing on bilateral relations were fruitful and successful. Next February will mark the 50th anniversary of the Sudanese-Chinese relations, he said. The envoy has reiterated China's support to Sudan to arrive at a resolution to Darfur issue and appreciated the initiatives by the government of Sudan aiming at resolving the issue. He hoped that the Sudanese people initiative will achieve aspirations of the people. The envoy has urged the armed movements to sit for talks to reach a lasting settlement to Darfur issue, saying China will continue backing Sudan, United Nations and the African Union as well as other parties in their mission. On the International Criminal Court allegations, the envoy said the overwhelming majority of the states have expressed their denunciations and rejection to the allegations.

WHO Praises Sudan Commitment to Polio Eradication Strategy

(Sudan Vision) The World Health Organization (WHO) lauded the Sudanese government's efforts and its commitment to the international strategy for eradication of polio and other childhood diseases.

Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rab, WHO representative in Sudan, said efforts made by Sudan in this field have resulted in the absence of any new polio cases recorded during 2003, adding that the elaborate vaccination program has posted a rate of over 90% during 2007.

Abdul Rab reiterated that the polio virus re-emerged in Sudan during 2004-2005 due to several factors which he summed up as difficulty in reaching the targeted children in Darfur and the South because of security conditions in those regions. "Only one out of every five children in southern Sudan has been vaccinated," he said.

In his address yesterday before a gathering in Mayo area, the WHO representative stated that the October tour of the national campaign for eradication of polio has recorded 152 cases caused by viruses from Chad and Nigeria.

He indicated that polio cases in other parts of the world are increasing due to some factors, citing the case of India which suspended the vaccination campaigns during 2002-2003 and Nigeria which halted the campaigns for unknown reasons. He underlined the importance of sustaining national polio campaigns endorsed by an elaborate vaccination program which is technically and financially supported by the international community and partners.

On the other hand, Khartoum State Health Minister, Parmena Auya, disclosed that his Ministry has carried out a number of vaccination campaigns within the national strategy for the eradication of polio in Sudan.

South Sudan Holds First Debate on Independence Referendum

Oct. 28 (*Bloomberg*) - South Sudan's road to independence will be a bumpy one, President Salva Kiir said in the first public debate on a referendum to be held in 2011 that will decide whether the region should secede from Sudan. "Some groups in Sudan are working to obstruct the referendum", Kiir told the audience in the regional capital, Juba, yesterday. "It is our duty to prevent these elements".

"I urge Sudan's peace partners to cooperate in order to implement the referendum in the south and in Abyei", said Abel Alier, who is co-chair of the National Constitutional Review Commission. Other participants complained that while the peace agreement was supposed to convince southerners to remain part of a unified Sudan, it has few economic benefits so far. "For three years not a single national project has come to the south", said Bashir Bendi, chairman of information and culture committee in the southern parliament. "Only contracts for a few dams were signed in Juba recently".

SPLA draft bill tables to SSLA

(Miraya FM website) 28 Oct - The Sudan Peoples Liberation Army draft Bill has been tabled to the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly's Security and Order Committee for a first reading next week. Assembly's Speaker, Mr. James Wani Igga urged the committee to return the draft bill to the Assembly within one week because it concerns the security of South Sudan. The Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, Mr. Michael Makuei emphasized the importance of the bill.

JEM & SLM/Unity faction urges for adoption of ONE region in Darfur

(Miraya FM website) 28 Oct - The Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Movement Unity faction have made a precondition of ONE region in Darfur to make the next

talks with the government a success. Jibril Abraham, an SLM/Unity leading member, criticized statements of the assistant to the President Nafie Ali Nafie on Darfur, in which he rejected the demand of the people of Darfur for one region. Speaking to Miraya FM Jibril added that solving the Darfur conflict lies in the federal system. Meanwhile, SLM/Unity Spokesperson, Issam Al Haj considered the statements of Nafie Ali Nafie on Darfur as a prove, reflecting the government lack of seriousness in next negotiations.

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