

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 31 October 07**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Sima Samar: violence continues in Darfur

(*AlSahafa*) The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan, Sima Samar, has yesterday presented her report to the UN General Assembly. Sima said violence is continuing in Darfur and human rights are violated by all parties. The violations, according to the report, include detentions, illegal taxes, forcible displacement, killing and sexual violence.

Darfur peace talks enter "intensive" discussion phase, UN says

(*Dpa English*) Rebels and Sudanese officials have begun a "constructive" new round of peace talks aimed at ending the ethnic conflict in Sudan's Darfur region, the UN and African Union said Tuesday. The talks began over the weekend in Sirte, Libya, hometown of Libyan leader Moamer Gaddafi and mediators said the discussions would involve substantive issues and could last up to three weeks. Two plenary sessions were held since Saturday, attended by envoys from the Sudanese government, rebel groups, more than a dozen observer countries and civil society.

The talks are being mediated by Jan Eliasson, the UN special envoy for Darfur, and Salim Ahmed Salim of the African Union. "We welcome the constructive tone and spirit of the interventions during those discussions," the two mediators said in a statement distributed at UN headquarters in New York. "We have consistently called for an end to violence and a cessation of hostilities."

UN probes deportation by Egypt of Sudanese expelled from Israel

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. JERUSALEM) The UN High Commission for Refugees is investigating whether Egypt broke its promise not to deport Sudanese refugees back to their country of origin after they had illegally crossed into Israel, UNHCR's Cairo spokeswoman told Haaretz. The investigation, which also involves Israel's Foreign Affairs Ministry, revolves around 48 Sudanese refugees whom Israel deported to Egypt two months ago. The spokeswoman, Abir Atfah, said her organization asked the Egyptian authorities to allow the UNHCR to meet the refugees, who were deported back to Egypt on August 19, but this effort failed. Atfah believes the 48 refugees were arrested as soon as they entered Egypt.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem is trying through the embassy in Cairo to gain information about the group of refugees, a ministry official told Haaretz. Ministry officials said they have so far been unsuccessful.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Bush urges deployment of hybrid, exerting pressures on parties to CPA crisis

(*AlSahafa*) The US President George Bush yesterday urged the UN Secretary General to deploy the peacekeeping force in Darfur and called for exerting pressures on all parties to the conflict in the region.

Khartoum MPs suggest team to resolve Abyei, reconcile SPLM and NCP

(*The Citizen*) Lawmakers from the National parliament yesterday proposed a committee to resolve continues issues, especially Abyei, as they said that the continued absence of the SPLM could have dangerous consequences for the government. The decision came as in Juba the South Sudan Parliament also named a bipartisan committee that would meet presidents Omer al Bashir and Salva Kiir in a move to diffuse the north south crisis. In the National Assembly's session yesterday Farouq Abu Eisa (National Democratic Alliance) called upon parliament to form a national committee from all political parties to start dialogue between the two parties.

In the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, the committee was proposed last week after it passed a motion backing the SPLM walking out from the GoNU. The committee is named only a week after the southern Sudan Parliament last Tuesday unanimously adopted a motion supporting a decision by the SPLM to walk out of government, thereby deepening the impasse. But at the same time, in a compromise position with other political parties, the lawmakers unanimously set up a committee to meet President Bashir and VP Kiir as part of efforts to resolve the current impasse.

NCP-SPLM crisis may be resolved in 48 hours

(*Alwan*) NCP-SPLM political committees are holding intensive meetings in an effort to resolve the crisis of withdrawing the SPLM ministers from the GoNU. Sources expect that these meetings may reach decisive resolutions to end the crisis in 48 hours.

Reconciliation conference for tribes in South Kordofan

(*AlAyam*) The South Kordofan State informed that it will organize a peace and reconciliation conference for all the tribes in the State to strengthen the social fabric and disseminate the culture of peace. According to the Spokesperson of the State Government, Ahmed Tajir, the time and venue of the conference has not yet been agreed.

Sudan says cooperation with CIA prevented US 'destructive' backlash

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. KHARTOUM) Sudan's spy chief revealed that his government has maintained strong relationships with US law enforcement agencies including CIA and FBI as well as the US Department of Defense. Salah Gosh, the head of Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Service, told the Al-Ahdath daily from Libya that the cooperation with the US "helped avert devastating measures [by US administration] against Sudan". The intelligence cooperation between the US and Sudan was publicly exposed in 2005 when the Los Angeles Times disclosed that the

CIA sent a jet in April 2005 to Khartoum to ferry Gosh into Washington for meetings on nabbing terror suspects in East Africa. The report caused outcry among human rights groups in the US who allege that Gosh has orchestrated human right abuses in the war ravaged region of Darfur. The widespread criticism forced the US administration to subsequently deny Gosh entry to seek medical treatment for heart condition. *Read more: [Sudan says cooperation with CIA prevented US 'destructive' backlash](#)*

Sudanese government agrees to delay Darfur peace talks

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. SIRTE, Libya) The Sudanese government's top peace negotiator today agreed to postpone Darfur peace talks in order to allow more time to rebel groups to come to the table of negotiations with one position. After reticence during the two first days and following a meeting with the UN-AU mediation team headed by Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, Sudanese Presidential Assistant, Nafi Ali Nafi, said in press statements in Sirte he agreed to give more time for rebel consultations adding he requested the mediation to accord a reasonable delay.

GoSS

GoSS seeks membership in East Africa group

(*AllIntibaha*) The GoSS has submitted an official request to join East Africa group. The Ugandan Minister of State at the Ministry of Commerce said the GoSS and also the Government of Khartoum have asked for membership in the group. He said the request of the Government of Khartoum has been approved while the request of the GoSS has been rejected.

Salva Kiir suspends Lakes State Assembly decision

(*Khartoum Monitor*) the Lakes state Interim Legislative Assembly Honorable Speaker, Isaiah Alier told Khartoum Monitor that Government of Southern Sudan President, Salva Kiir has suspended the letter of Lakes State Interim Legislative Assembly impeachment dated 21 August 2007 regarding the Lakes State Minister for Finance, Trade and Industry Philip Marol Mading. According to Hon Isaiah Alier, Lakes state Legislative Assembly has high respect for President Kiir revealed in allowing Philip Marol to be active in his office of Finance despite all the trouble he has caused the ministry in the Lakes State. The Minister will continue to work as the assembly waits for President Kiir's promise to form an auditing committee to evaluate the case. Other directive measure will also be taken against Philip Marol later if his is proved guilty Alier explained.

LRA agrees to Kampala talks

(*Sudan Tribune*) Uganda's northern rebel group says it will hold unprecedented talks with the President in the capital on Thursday. The visit by senior Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) figures will be the first to Kampala since the start of the 21- year bloody insurgency in the north. The meeting is due after President Yoweri Museveni returns from the US, where he has had talks with President George Bush about the peace process.

Salva Kiir maintains Lakes finance minister despite legislator's opposition

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. RUMBEK) The Lakes State Interim Legislative Assembly Speaker Isaiah Alier Machinkok told Sudan Tribune that the president of southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has suspended the impeachment of state minister of finance. Lakes State Interim Legislative Assembly impeached by unanimous votes the state minister for Finance, Trade and Industry Philip Marol Mading on August 21, 2007. The Lakes state parliament, following the recommendations of investigation committee on the activities of the finance minister, said he shifted the budget line items without the authorization of the assembly. Also, the legislators enumerated some violations related to the misuse of public funds.

LRA rebels to visit Uganda to boost peace talks

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. NAIROBI) Ugandan rebels will this week make a landmark visit to Uganda to seek public views on peace efforts, their key condition before resuming fitful talks with the government, the group said Tuesday. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) chief negotiator Martin Ojul will Thursday lead the rebels' first ever official delegation to their home country, during which they will also hold talks with President Yoweri Museveni. The rebels are based in neighboring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and southern Sudan.

Darfur

GoS delegation in Sirte accuses SPLM of compromising on Darfur

(*AlSudani*) The member of the GoS delegation for Sirte talks, Abdallah Safi al Nour, accused the SPLM of working to make the talks a failure. Abdallah told the media reporters yesterday that the SPLM is keeping the leaders of the rebel groups as hostages in Juba as a means of pressure on the NCP in order to solve its problems. He said the SPLM is not keen in the unity of the rebel movements.

Salim to Washington to discuss participation of DPA non-signatory rebel groups in Sirte talks

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Chief mediator in Sirte talks, Salim Ahmed Salim, is expected to leave today for The United States of America to meet some officials in the US Administration and urge them to exert pressures on the SPLM so that it can in turn bear pressure on the Darfur rebel leaders who are still in Juba to join the talks.

Mediation gives Darfur movements three weeks to return to Sirte

(*AlSahafa*) The mediation team in Sirte talks has given the Darfur rebels who are participating in the talks a period of three weeks after which they should return back to Sirte. The GoS has agreed to this proposal and will accordingly ask part of its team to return to Khartoum while some members will remain in Sirte for further consultations. The UN mediator Jan Eliasson, who held a joint press conference with Salim Ahmed Salim, said during this three weeks period the mediation team will make some consultations outside Sirte to ensure the success of direct negotiations.

Arab conference stresses on meeting the needs of Darfurians

(Sudan Vision) President of the Republic Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir has tied finalization and guaranteeing the sustainability of peace in Darfur to the provision of the needs of those affected by war as represented in repatriation, reconstruction and development programs. In his address yesterday, before the conference held for addressing humanitarian conditions in Darfur, sponsored by the Arab league, President Al Bashir underlined the government's commitment to the flow of humanitarian aid for those who need it and facilitation of the humanitarian organizations movement in Darfur.

He called for taking into consideration the root-causes of Darfur crisis as well as its environmental dimension and the struggle for resources in the region, indicating that these factors adversely affected the social and economic environment.

President Al Bashir demanded the international community to fulfill its pledges related to provision of humanitarian needs for those affected by war in Darfur. He further praised the stances of sisterly Arab and African countries and fraternal ones for supporting Sudan in regional and international arenas, highlighting in particular the Arab League's role in promoting the cause of peace in the country.

He urged the Abuja opponents to join Sirte talks, affirming that the government's delegation participating in the talks has been vested with full mandate for completing its mission. He also lauded the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union in the peace process, indicating that these efforts, that are in agreement with Sudan's efforts, were based on the UN plan that included the light and heavy support packages and the hybrid operation adopted by the Security Council under its Resolution 1769 to which Sudan is committed.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amru Mousa, called on the international community to encourage the Abuja opponents to join Sirte talks. He praised the government's unilateral announcement of the ceasefire and at the same time urged the rebel factions to adhere to that. He further revealed that the total pledges made at the Arab Conference amounted to a quarter of a billion dollars, stressing that the Arab League and the African Union will continue their support of Darfur peace.

FM summons British Ambassador to protest Brown's statements

(Sudan Vision) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Ambassador Ali AlSadiq affirmed that the A/ Foreign Minister would have met, yesterday, the British Ambassador accredited to Khartoum on the background of the tension that has occurred between Khartoum and London evoked by the British PM, Gordon Brown Statements threatening imposition of sanctions on Sudan should Darfur Talks run at Sirte, Libya have failed. AlSadiq stated that the summoning of the British Diplomat should have been for conveying to her Khartoum official protest against the said statements. For his part, the Assistant to the President and Head of Delegation for Darfur Peace Talks, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, affirmed that the British Representatives to the Talks, Mr. Mike has presented to him verbal apology and affirmed that Brown's

statements were erroneous, adding that the ceasefire declaration announced by the Sudan Government has been appreciated by the Britain.

Al Nur mocks Libya as Arabs promise 0.5 billion SDG for Darfur

(The Citizen) The leader of the most credible Darfur rebel group said Tuesday that sanctions against the rebel groups would be futile as, in Khartoum, officials at the Arab Conference said they had raised a quarter-billion US dollars for Darfur. Speaking to the Citizen from Paris, chairman of SLM, Abdul Wahid Nur, said that the proposed sanctions by Libya farther diminished its role as a partial mediator. Al Nur comments came a day after the Associated Press reported Monday that talks in Sirte had all but broken down, as the United Nations announced that it would send officials to convince the absentee rebels to come, in what some see as a public relations disaster. The rebels had already objected to Libya, and convincing them means shifting the venue of the talks.

Darfur rebels give little hope to participate in Sirte talks

(Sudan Tribune.com – 30 Oct. KHARTOUM) Darfur rebels boycotting peace talks in Libya said on Tuesday they would meet envoys from an African Union-U.N. mediation team but set conditions that gave little hope they would change their positions. Mediators had hoped to unite the rival rebel factions before peace talks opened in Libya on October 27. But negotiations began in the coastal Libyan town of Sirte with none of the key factions present. On Tuesday the joint U.N. and AU mediation team said it was sending delegations to the rebel leadership who did not attend." We are having consultations with those here in Sirte and will be having consultations with those outside too," said AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni. He did not have a specific date for the talks. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) Unity, the main fighting factions in Darfur, said they wanted unified rebel delegations to attend any talks.

NGOs work to clear their name after Chad child 'trafficking'

(Sudan Tribune.com – 30 Oct. ABEICHE, Chad) Aid agencies and authorities in eastern Chad are urging local people not to lose confidence in the international humanitarian community, after members of a French association claiming to rescue Sudanese orphans from the war in Darfur were charged with fraud and abduction of minors. "Many [non-governmental organizations (NGOs)] working with children were a little bit afraid that the practices that Zoé's Ark had used would appear as the norm, which is absolutely not the case," said Aurélie Lamazière, of Save the Children UK's emergencies department. A committee of 21 NGOs working in eastern Chad, including Save the Children, Oxfam, and Action against Hunger, has signed a joint statement expressing "profound concern" over the incident, which the committee calls "serious violation" of the children's rights.

Chinese envoy hails Darfur talks as "new start"

(Sudan Tribune.com – 29 Oct. SIRTE, Libya) A Darfur peace conference that began here Saturday is a "new start" for the international community to facilitate the peace process in the western Sudanese region, a Chinese special envoy has said. Liu Guijin,

China's special envoy on the Darfur issue, made the remarks in an interview with Chinese reporters when attending the peace talks between the Sudanese government and rebel factions in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte. The negotiations also provided a new opportunity for dialogue between the two sides, although the main rebel factions refused to take part in it, he said. The conference, whose participants also include civilian groups and women's organizations, is not a failure as it has drawn attention from the international community, Liu said.

Read more: [Chinese envoy hails Darfur talks as "new start"](#)

Bush urges UN to 'get moving' on Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. WASHINGTON) US President George W. Bush called on the United Nations Tuesday to "get moving" on deploying a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force to help end "genocide" in Sudan's Darfur province. Bush told visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni that he had discussed the conflict with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and urged him to "get moving those troops into the Darfur region as quickly as possible." The US president also stressed that "it's important to continue putting the pressure on the respective parties to come up with an agreement that will help end the genocide" in Darfur.

British lawmakers' criticism of China on Darfur "irresponsible"

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. BEIJING) A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Tuesday that a letter from British lawmakers urging China to shoulder more responsibility for ending the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region was irresponsible. "This is utterly irresponsible, as it is obvious to all that China has played a constructive role on the Darfur issue," Liu Jianchao, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a routine press conference. "We feel regretful that some politicians ignored China's efforts," Liu said.

It is reported that on Monday, more than 100 British lawmakers, in a letter addressed to Chinese President Hu Jintao and delivered to the Chinese Embassy in London, called on China to should more responsibility on Darfur issue. Liu said China holds that under the current situation, the parties concerned should fully support and cooperate with the United Nations and the African Union, and solve the Darfur issue through political negotiation.

Arabs pledges 250 million dollars aid for Darfur

(*Sudan Tribune.com* – 30 Oct. KHARTOUM) Arab League chief Amr Musa said on Tuesday that participants at a conference on humanitarian aid for Darfur hosted by Khartoum had pledged 250 million dollars for the war-ravaged region. "Total undertakings at the Arab conference on the humanitarian situation in Darfur amount to a quarter of a billion dollars," or 173 million euros, Musa told journalists following the day's session. Musa did not provide a breakdown of the pledges or over how long the money would be given.

Darfur force 'may be' operational early 2008

(Agence France-Presse) AL-FASHER, A bolstered United Nations-African Union force charged with bringing peace to **Sudan's** ravaged **Darfur** region may be operational by early next year, the head of the mission said on Wednesday.

Rodolphe Adada made the announcement during the inauguration of the new force's headquarters in **Darfur's** main city of Al-Fasher, the day after US President George W. Bush called for the United Nations to "get moving" on its deployment.

The headquarters opened three months to the day after the UN Security Council on July 31 approved the new force of over 26,000 troops and police, baptised UNAMID, to replace the current under-equipped AU deployment of 7,000.

"This is a great day for UNAMID," Adada told journalists. "Three months ago when the Security Council voted Resolution 1769 it was an idea and today we are a reality. Now we can begin the real work."

"We may be operational in the beginning of the next year," he said.

The United Nations said earlier this month it had agreed with the African Union to accept troop contingents from 16 countries, mostly from Africa but also from Bangladesh, Jordan, Nepal, the Netherlands, Scandinavian countries and Thailand.

Some troops have arrived already, but have been initially integrated into the African Union Mission in **Sudan** (AMIS) while UNAMID is being set up.

The full force is not expected to be deployed until well into 2008.

"We are a step further toward the handover from AMIS to UNAMID," he said, adding that "This is the beginning of UNAMID."

"We are waiting for approval from the **Sudanese** government for infantry troops from two or three non-African countries," he said, repeating a UN appeal made earlier this month for more aircraft to patrol an area the size of France.

Asked about ongoing peace talks in the Libyan city of Sirte, attended by some rebels and Khartoum but boycotted by the most representative rebel factions, the Congolese politician said "we need peace between **Sudanese**."

"There are two faces of the **Darfur** problem -- establishing of UNAMID and the political issue. We need peace between **Sudanese** because it will be the basis of our work."

Bush said on Tuesday that he had discussed the conflict with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and urged him to "get moving those troops into the **Darfur** region as quickly as possible."

The US president also stressed that "it's important to continue putting the pressure on the respective parties to come up with an agreement that will help end the genocide" in **Darfur**.

Conflict and famine in **Darfur** have left at least 200,000 people dead and two million displaced, according to international organisations, since Khartoum enlisted Janjaweed Arab militia allies to put down an ethnic minority revolt in 2003.

Khartoum puts the death toll much lower.