

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS****Media Monitoring Report, 5 September 2007**

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN

Coverage on Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon's visit to Sudan*

Secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon's visit to Sudan has been much reported across the board in today's local and international news agencies. *Alwan*, *AlSharei AlSiyassi*, *AlKhartoum*, *AlKhabar*, *AlWattan* and *Rai AlShaab* do not have the report in their lead headlines or first pages but do have reference to the visit of one sort or other in their inner pages.

Sudan Vision and AlAyaam dailies print out today a full-length transcript of the speech by the Secretary-general before the Sudan. The paper's editorial piece (attached) is *A Message to the UN Chief*.

*** Attached separately is a Special Media Monitoring Report on local and international coverage on Secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon's visit to Sudan.**

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan's al-Bashir entrusts close assistant with Darfur dossier

(*SudanTribune.com*; *AlRai AlAam*) During a meeting yesterday of the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, President Bashir officially tasked close aide and Deputy Chairman of the NCP, Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, with the Darfur dossier. The announcement was made in the presence of Vice-president Taha and Senior Presidential Aide Minnawi.

Nafi Ali Nafi replaces the late Majzoub al-Khalifa who died at the end of last June in a car accident while traveling to his home town in northern Sudan.

The President said that the move was in a bid to enhance the security situation. He stressed that any positive developments in the security situation on the ground would boost voluntary returns of IDPs.

The President also urged for the implementation of the Hybrid Operations and said that el-Fasher town should be linked to drinking water from Saq El-Na'ama area while the Houdh el-Baggara basin should serve Nyala with water. He also called for the rehabilitation of airports and airfields in the area to accommodate the expected air traffic for ferrying of the technical and logistics requirements for that mission.

Reactions of the armed groups in Darfur to this move are varied. Ahmed Ibrahim Ahmed, a member of an SLM-MM splinter group, says that Nafi's appointment was not a good move while Ahmed AbdelShafei pointed out that government policies towards Darfur are no secret and would remain the same regardless of who is the government point-person on the issue.

Sudanese President to visit Vatican for the first time

(Reuters) Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir will travel to the Vatican in mid-September for his first visit to the Holy See since coming to power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989, an adviser said on Tuesday.

Bashir, whose government the Vatican has criticized for human rights abuses, will meet Pope Benedict and discuss a Sudanese initiative for religious dialogue, he said. Bashir will also discuss efforts to bring peace to war-torn Darfur.

"He will meet the Pope around September 14," presidential adviser Mahjoub Fadul told Reuters, saying the visit would take place during a three-day trip to Italy. "It will be an important meeting." ([Read more ...](#)).

Darfur crisis remains top priority of Sudan's government - FM

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com; Rai AlShaab et al) Speaking yesterday at a forum attended by ambassadors of Arab countries in Sudan, Foreign Minister Lam Akol reiterated that the crisis in the western Sudanese region of Darfur remained the top priority of the government.

Lam Akol noted that the issue, however, had taken different forms at the international level. "Some circles are trying to exploit the issue to serve their own interests while others falsely speak of deterioration of the conditions in the region."

The Sudanese minister announced that President Omer al-Bashir had formed a preparatory committee for the Arab donors' conference, which is to be held in Khartoum on Oct. 30-31, on provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur affected by the conflict. He pointed out that Darfur needs development and not aid.

While lauding participation and support of Arab countries to Sudan, minister Akol said that these donations required more study and coordination.

State Minister at the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, who also attended the forum summarized the objectives of the conference and said it would confirm the Arab presence in Darfur and thus make a reasonable balance in the humanitarian process. He also underlined the need to double efforts to ensure vital requirements are met for the repatriation of IDPs.

Workshop to discuss problem of child soldiers

(Sudan Vision) A workshop on children and armed conflicts will be held today at the National Council for Child Welfare in Khartoum. Three papers will be presented at the workshop dealing with the issue of child soldiers in armed conflicts in southern Sudan, conformity of national and international legislations and the concept of child protection.

The workshop, organized by the Human Rights Advisory Council in cooperation with the National Council for Child Welfare, UNICEF and DDR Commission, is aimed at

appraisal of the experiments performed in the field of child soldiers under the DDR program.

Sudan floods death toll reach 122 people

(Reuters) The death toll from the worst floods in Sudan in living memory rose to 122 with the death of eight people in heavy rains which swept away houses and brought down electric cables, an official said on Tuesday.

Hamadallah Adam Ali, head of the government's Civil Defense authority, told Reuters the eight people died on Monday in flash floods in the town of Kosti in central Sudan, which he said had been one of the hardest hit regions.

"There have been rains of about 125 mm (five inches)," he said. "The whole city is full of water and this water has destroyed more than 20,000 houses in Kosti and neighbouring villages... Now 122 people have died because of the floods."

In Kosti one person was electrocuted when electric cables landed in the flood water and the others died when a house collapsed on them during heavy rainfall, he added.

The U.N. humanitarian aid agency OCHA says the flooding in Africa's largest country has made at least 200,000 people homeless and has destroyed roads, schools and access to clean drinking water.

The government says the floods have damaged or destroyed over 50,000 hectares (125,000 acres) of agricultural land and killed some 36,000 head of livestock across Sudan, where most people depend on farming and livestock for their livelihoods.

Last week the United Nations appealed for more than \$20 million to provide clean water, food and shelter to more than three million people affected by the floods.

"The UN says it will send money, but it will come too late," Ali said. "We need it now."

OCHA said last week that at least 3.5 million people in Sudan may be at risk of epidemics spread by flood damage, such as malaria and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), which has killed 57 people in eastern Sudan.

Last month the World Health Organization (WHO) said the AWD outbreak in eastern Sudan was cholera, a waterborne disease that can lead to death within hours if not treated.

Khartoum has denied the occurrence of the cholera, a disease which analysts say can have social and political ramifications, making governments reluctant to use the word.

GoSS

SPLM investigates assassination attempt

(*Khartoum Monitor*) SPLM police have yesterday launched investigations into the attempted assassination early last week of Daniel Kodi, Deputy Governor of South Kordofan State, in Rabak, White Nile State.

A suspect to the attempt is being interrogated and, once investigations are through, will be handed over to White Nile Police.

Kodi survived the attempt on his life when a person detonated a hand grenade while the deputy governor was speaking to SPLM supporters at a ceremony in Rabak. South Kordofan State authorities say another man was arrested on Saturday in connection to the attempt.

On his part, Deputy Governor Kodi said some parties (which he declined to name) have been trying to assassinate him since the signing of the CPA. He further accused the NCP of arming militias in South Kordofan State and called for speeding up the implementation of the Protocol on Security Arrangements and DDR for the militias.

Southern Sudan to draft formal defense policy

(*Reuters*) Semi-autonomous Southern Sudan has taken its first steps toward drafting a formal defense policy as part of a process to turn the rebel-dominated southern army into a conventional force, officials said.

Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol said top generals and politicians, members of the church and civil society, and British and U.S. security consultants had been invited to put together the beginnings of the policy.

"This is the first consultative workshop on the Defense White Paper, the defense policy for southern Sudan," Kuol said. "Even the size of the SPLA will be determined by this document."

The first meeting took place on Monday, and the process was expected to take months to complete.

The SPLA will be made smaller, which will allow for its speedier development and the purchase of weapons, he said. He said currently all money is going toward salaries and rations.

The army has received a lion's share of the south's budget — around 40 per cent — in the last two years.

Analysts have said the inclusion of some 31,000 former militia soldiers into the SPLA this year was necessary for security in the south but could be a severe financial drain on the army. But size was not the only factor in need of change. ([Read more ...](#)).

Group of Habbania tribesmen of South Darfur displace to Bahr-el-Ghazal

(*Rai AlShaab*) Raja County in West Bahr-el-Ghazal has received a group of IDPs displaced from neighboring South Darfur.

The Raja County Commissioner reports that IDP camps resulting from the tribal conflicts in South Darfur are gradually taking shape. He pointed out that the county received in the last two days more than 100 families and that the local government has immediately launched efforts to provide food, shelter, health services and security to these people. He warned however that the county may soon run out of receiving capacity should larger numbers flow in. He also called on the Government of National Unity to assist the displaced.

South Sudan requested to explain misuse of Uganda's dial code

(The Monitor) A southern Sudanese civil society organization wants the country's telecommunication and postal services minister, to testify before parliament on the alleged misuse of the Uganda's dialing code, the Daily Monitor reported.

Franzen Soenke, an official from Gurtong Peace Trust, a south Sudan public accountability forum, has written to the parliamentary committee on commissions, statutory bodies and state enterprises demanding that Maj-Gen Gier Chuang immediately explains the status of the Uganda Telecom Ltd (UTL)-Gemtel deal. Gemtel is a private South Sudan phone company that was given leeway by Uganda Telecom Ltd (UTL) to use the national code +256.

The committee is currently investigating circumstances under which UTL gave Gemtel the franchise. MPs say the government is losing millions of shillings since Gemtel uses the code without paying direct taxes to the government. ([Read more ...](#)).

Darfur

Eritrea renews readiness to contribute to solving Darfur problem

(AlWahda) The President of the State of Eritrea told a sudan government delegation headed by Energy Minister Awad Ahmed el-Gaz that the two countries enjoy historic and strategic relations and that the climate of trust and cooperation the two countries now enjoy are as a result of their overcoming of the obstacles in their relations.

He further pointed out that good neighborly relations obviate that Eritrea play a role in the quest for solutions to the Darfur crisis in order to curb foreign intervention.

SAF combs South Kordofan to curb threat of armed groups

(AlSahafa) An armed group operating in the western parts of South Kordofan has launched the "Justice and Equality Movement – Kordofan Sector" and has declared war on the government.

The fledgling group told citizens they abducted last Monday and later released that they had grievances and demands that the central government have to take into consideration.

The Secretary-general of the Government of South Kordofan State declined to identify the group but said that the group has little effect and is composed of not more

than 14 people who are remnants of the Shahama movement. He admitted however that some of the rebels killed during the attack on Wad-Banda in North Kordofan are from those western parts of South Kordofan.

AlSahafa reports that the SAF and the other regular forces are combing the area to uproot this armed group.

On the other hand, the *Khartoum Monitor* further reports that an unidentified armed group set fire to three oil tankers in the area between AlDibab and AlMyilad yesterday. A vehicle belonging to the IGAD was also attacked at Samouaa in the western part of South Kordofan State between Babanousa and AlFula.

The Executive Director of the AlSalam local administrative unit, Adam Karshoum, said that they have launched investigations into the crime though it is raining heavily.

Chadian opposition accuses Deby of complicity in the Wad Banda raid

(*AlSudani*) A prominent member of the Chadian opposition Forces for Democracy and Development told *AlSudani* daily that the Chadian government is not serious in attempts to realize peace, stability and reconciliation in the region. He said he does not rule out Chadian government involvement in the recent Sudanese rebel attack on Wad Banda in North Kordofan.