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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

NCP and SPLM executive committee to discuss today freedoms and status of the national capital

Al-Ayyam reported that the NCP and SPLM Executive Committee headed by Vice President Taha and GoSS Vice President Machar will discuss today CPA pending issues.

Machar said the meeting would discuss a range of issues such as freedoms including freedom of press, laws inconsistent with the constitution, Darfur crisis, economic issues, Central Bank and status of the National Capital. He said the decisions of the Committee would be submitted to the Presidency.

On the other hand, SPLM Secretary in Khartoum Paul Deng accused NCP of dillydallying on SPLM's participation in the administration of Localities in the Capital saying that SPLM participation in the capital is limited to legislative and executive only. He said NCP refused SPLM participation in the peoples committees and administrative units in the Capital which is serious threat to CPA implementation.

"Non-Muslims are also being harassed during the current Ramadan as authorities charge owners of restaurants and cafeterias high fees," he said.

Sudan Mission to Geneva begins intensive consultations to terminate Sima Samar's Mission in Sudan

SUNA stated that an official source at the Ministry of Justice said that Sudan's official stance concerning the mission of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for the Sudan, Sima Samar, is that her mission in Sudan should not be renewed.

The source affirmed Sudan's rejection to a European draft decision on extension for Sima Samar's mission in Sudan. The official source said that the situation would become clearer after Sima Samar presents her report to which Sudan would respond.

He said that Sudan diplomatic mission to Geneva began consultations with the African Group, the French Ambassador on behalf of the European Group, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Caribbean Groups toward the ending of Sima Samar's mission in the country. He indicated that Sudan could suggest that there was no need for the mission of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Sima Samar, especially that a number of human rights observers are operating in Sudan and also because she is just repeating information of these observers.

FM does not rule out sanctions against Sudan

Al-Sahafa carried a report stating that the Foreign Minister Deng Alor did not rule out sanctions against Sudan if continues refusing to deal with the ICC and denied any move to dispatch a Dutch official or to launch an initiative to address the issue.

The Minister made the statements upon return from the Netherlands when asked by reporters to comment on the Dutch Foreign Minister's threat of sanctions against Sudan if continues

refusing to deal with ICC.

Political parties say will participate in elections

Al-Ayyam reported that the political parties declared that they would participate in the upcoming elections despite being marginalized by the NCP and SPLM by not involving them in selection of members of the elections commission.

Spokesperson of the political parties Siddiq Yousuf said NCP and SPLM have ignored the parties even though they have contacted them for discussion on the issue of the commission membership.

“We will contest elections although some articles of the elections law are unacceptable to us,” he said.

54 of the children participated in the attack on Omdurman to be reunited with families in Guneina today

Al-Watan stated that in implementation of President Bashir’s amnesty for the children participated in the attack on Omdurman; a committee will leave for Guneina today accompanied by 54 of those children to be reunited with their families.

The Governor of Western Darfur and members of his government, INGOs and NNGOs and families of the children will receive them upon return.

We want urgent trials of those responsible of incidents in Kalma – Fernandez

Al-Sudan carried a report stating that US said normalization of its relations with Sudan depends on improvement of the situation on the ground in Darfur.

US charge d’affaires Alberto Fernandez said his country was monitoring the initiatives and the incidents that took place recently in Kalma in South Darfur where 43 IDPs killed and 103 others wounded according to the Justice Ministry’s enquiry commission.

Fernandez said concerned about what he described as a crime that occurred in Kalma camp. “We want trials as speedy as those of JEM elements who participated in the incidents in Omdurman,” he said. He has called for urgent investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice adding that most of the victims in the camp were civilians, women, children and aged. He said the United States want an explanation on the incident.

Reconciliation conference between Dinka, Messeriya and Riseigat in October

Al-Sahafa reported that the Peace Commission of the North Bahr el Ghazal State has fixed October as the date for holding reconciliation conference between Messeriya, Riseigat and Dinka with the assistance of the UN.

The chairman of the commission Leno Adut said the conference would discuss issues such as grazing, water and borders.

Signs of confrontation between civilians and authorities in Unity State over arms collection

Al-Intibaha stated that GoSS efforts to collect arms from civilians in the ten southern States have stalled due to civilians refusal, rains, inaccessibility of some areas and the escape of some groups from target areas so that their arms are not collected.

Informed sources told the newspaper that authorities in the Unity State distributed circulars urging civilians to surrender their arms within 72 hours starting from yesterday. Residents in Unity State said they would not surrender their arms without guarantees for their protections from armed militias.

Governor of the Unity State Taban Deng said SPLA would cooperate with UNMIS to collect the arms through the DDR. At meeting with UNMIS Sector III, Taban said he was pleased with the cooperation of UN.

Websites/International News Coverage

Attacks may force WFP to suspend Darfur food convoys

(Sudan Tribune) —WFP warned today that the deterioration of security situation in Darfur could force it to suspend food distribution in the troubled region. Following a recent attack against its trucks near Moraya, 55 Km northern west of Nyala, capital of South Darfur on 3 September, the WFP said 69 trucks and 43 drivers remain unaccounted for.

The UN humanitarian body said that relentless attacks on truck convoys in Darfur are pushing to the brink the agency's ability to feed more than 3 million people each month. "Should these attacks continue, the situation will become intolerable — to the point that we will have to suspend operations in some areas of Darfur," Monika Midel, WFP's Deputy Representative in Sudan, said today.

More than 100 vehicles delivering WFP food assistance have been hijacked in Darfur, with many more shot at and robbed, since the beginning of the year. Drivers are refusing to travel along certain routes, significantly slowing food aid deliveries to hungry people.

WFP started cutting rations in May when truck convoys could no longer deliver enough food, affecting three million people. In July, almost 50,000 people received no food assistance at all due to insecurity. On 27 August, a WFP NGO partner German Agro Action (GAA) decided to suspend food distribution to 450,000 people in North Darfur because of insecurity.

Sudan president will not attend the UN General Assembly meetings

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir will not attend the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York due to start mid-September. It will mark the second time Al-Bashir has missed out on a foreign trip since his indictment by the ICC last July.

The Sudanese government has declined to make any formal announcement on whether Al-Bashir will fly to New York to lead his country's delegation. However, a well informed source told Sudan Tribune that Al-Bashir has been advised by his aides that he risks apprehension while at the UN headquarters.

The US is not a member of the ICC and no arrest warrant has been issued by the judges as of yet. The Sudanese president traveled to Turkey in August where he hinted in an interview with Reuters that he may only visit countries which are not members of the ICC. "We are not concerned about traveling, ourselves, we have good relations with a number of countries that do not have relations with the ICC" Al-Bashir said.

Sudan appoints new envoy to Washington

(Sudan Tribune) — The Sudanese government appointed the Deputy Permanent

Representative of Sudan Akec Khoc Acieu, at the UN as the new Chargé d'Affaires in Washington. He replaces John Ukec Lueth who assumed this position in October 2006 as the highest ranking envoy in Washington.

Both Lueth and Acieu are members of the SPLM. Acieu, the first doctor to join the SPLM shortly after its formation in 1983, graduated from Khartoum University Faculty of Medicine. He worked with current Foreign Minister Deng Alor in the SPLM office in Addis Ababa in the 80s and was SPLM representative in France for more than ten years.

Tanzanian, Sudanese Presidents hold talks on ICC indictment

(Sudan Tribune) –Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete arrived in Khartoum yesterday, where he held talks with President Omer Al-Bashir on African efforts to counter the ICC indictment.

Foreign minister, Deng Alor, told reporters Sunday that the Tanzanian visit comes within the framework of the African Union's efforts to demand the UN Security Council to freeze for 12 months the request of the ICC prosecutor for an arrest warrant against Al-Bashir. He said this efforts aims to allow the government to solve Darfur issue and achieve peace in the war-torn region.

In his meeting with Bashir, President Kikwete, the current chairman of the AU, also discussed UNAMID deployment and political efforts to solve the five-year crisis.

The Tanzanian president met with the US President George Bush at the end of August and discussed with him Darfur issue. Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail said Kikwete brings with him ideas that can help solve some of the problems. Other proposals need further clarification, he said.

The AU Peace and Security Council will hold a meeting in New York on the sideline of the General Assembly on 22 September to discuss efforts to block the indictment of Sudanese President.

INTERVIEW: Sudan FM expresses frustration with the ruling NCP over Darfur crisis

(Sudan Tribune) –Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor directed strong criticism at the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and accused them of being unserious about resolving the Darfur crisis. In an interview with the Al-Sahafa newspaper, Alor reiterated the position of the SPLM of the need to deal with the ICC and said he was surprised by the NCP's indifferent attitude to the issue.

He further signaled divisions between the SPLM & NCP on handling the ICC row and stressed that this is a legal matter that should be resolved along with the political track.

The Sudanese foreign minister also vigorously downplayed a Chinese intervention to stop the ICC work saying that Beijing as part of the UN Security Council (UNSC) mandated the ICC prosecutor to investigate in Darfur.

He also expressed outrage with the attack by Sudanese soldiers and security officers on Kalma refugee camp in South Darfur that killed at least 30 people and injured many more.

"Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity is the behavior of the army and security elements, and the government bears that responsibility" Alor said in the portion of the interview censored by Sudanese security in Al-Sahafa newspaper today.

He also denied that the West want to topple the NCP dominated regime as implied by some Sudanese officials.

Below is the text of the first part of the interview:

Q. You mentioned in your last interview that there are two factions within the committee for the management of the crisis with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Are there still continuing disparities or were the positions consolidated in a unified vision?

Alor: The positions are still the same within the committee for the management of the crisis headed by First Vice-President Salva Kiir. The stances are not in harmony and remain parallel. The National Congress Party (NCP) rejects any dealings with the ICC while the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) is a proponent of dealing with the ICC either directly or indirectly through a law firm acting on behalf of the government representatives.

Q. Do you think that this position of the SPLM is a convincing one considering that the ICC procedures require that the suspects first appear before them and the court does not conduct trials in absentia?

Alor: The SPLM position is the correct and objective one. It represents the only way out of crisis because the ICC issue is not resolved through demonstrations or lobbying across regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the Arab League (AL). At its best this will only success in mobilizing moral support. Because the case is in essence a legal one then it must be confronted with counter-arguments and legal ways not through public relations.

Even regional organizations such as the AU and AL all they did was request a deferral for one year because they know that this is legal issue. SPLM position is to move in two tracks; First, dealing with the ICC in the way I just mentioned. The second is to find the radical solution to the Darfur crisis, so if we succeed in our dealings with the ICC to defer its proceedings we will have created channels of communications with them, and at the same time this will enable us to reach a fair and quick agreement in Darfur.

Q. Excuse me, Mr. Alor, but this still does not repeal obligations for the suspects to appear in court one the deferral period is over?

Alor: If we can get a deferral and reach a peace agreement in Darfur, it will enable us to achieve national reconciliation, which will have a positive impact on the working of the ICC. Summoning suspects by the ICC is the final stage, and before that there are lawyers who can drag this issue for two or three more years. This period provide an opportunity for solving the fundamental problem which is Darfur that led to repercussions including the ICC.

On the other hand, if you have not solved the Darfur problem and refused to deal with the ICC, it only means you want to enter into a confrontation with the international community.

Q. Your position on this matter is the same as the AU proposal to postpone the court's work for a year or more pending solving the problem?

Alor: The AU position also calls on the government to deal with the ICC.

Q. Do you see any hopes for reaching a consensus with the NCP on the ICC issue?

Alor: We did not reach a consensus. In the last meeting of the committee for the management of the crisis, the legal committee headed Minister of Justice Abdel-Basit Sabdarat was asked to prepare a report for the next meeting on ways to legal ways to deal with the crisis internally. The Foreign Ministry was asked to prepare a paper containing recommendations on how to deal with the ICC that contained positions of the NCP and SPLM as well as the non-binding proposals that were part of the French initiative.

Q. How did you handle the French initiative?

Alor: These are non-binding proposals, and the core of it was to deal with the ICC which was the SPLM's position in principle since 2005.

Q. But it was said that the French initiative include demands to extradite Ahmed Haroun and Ali Kushayb?

Alor: This was the ceiling in this initiative and that is their view but we disagree because we don't think there should be any extradition of the suspects, but we agree with them in dealing with the ICC.

Q. Considering the conflicting positions within the committee for the management of the crisis, how is it functioning in tackling the crisis? Is it still working?

Alor: (Speaking unenthusiastically) The work is continuing and it is supposed to meet soon. I was in Juba a few days ago and I met with the First Vice President and notified him of this meeting and presumably Kiir will contact 2nd Vice-President Ali Osman Taha to determine the date and decide whether the meeting will be held in Khartoum and Juba.

Q. What formula you think is the most appropriate to resolve the Darfur crisis? Is it 'People of Sudan' initiative launched by the president or something else?

Alor: I am a man who likes clarity. So far I do not see any initiative with a clear framework for resolving the crisis. The initiative known as the 'People of Sudan' is talk or general guidelines set forth by the President and details need to be worked by experts into specific points addressing the core problem of Darfur process. In my opinion there is no seriousness to solve the problem of Darfur.

Q. Are you pointing fingers to the Government of National Unity (GONU)?

Alor: There is no serious handling to problem of Darfur from the NCP, the Darfur issue is an easy one and not as complex as the problem of the South, which included demands such for self-determination, separation of religion from the state and others, but the problem of Darfur is an ombudsman for the people of the region for the absence of development and non-participation in running their affairs and representation in the Central government and the insensitivity by the center to the problems of those on the margin. This resulted in three key demands during previous rounds of negotiations (1) Representation in the Central Government through the post of a Vice President (2) Unifying the Darfur states (3) Remunerative compensation to those affected by war.

Q. But the government believes that those who carried arms are not worthy for them to meet these demands?

Alor: These are not issues that should make us turn our backs to the crisis for it to worsen and lead to intervention by the ICC, and if there is seriousness this would have not evolved until it is

now threatening the future of Sudan. There is complacency and a inclination towards military solutions rather than address the roots of the problem.

The military action is an interim thing and at the end parties must sit at the negotiation like we did in the south where the war that has lasted for more than forty years to be resolved eventually through negotiation. We should be moving away from any military solution in Darfur because the people of Darfur are our brothers and they are Sudanese and have the right to participate in the central authority in accordance with their population size and should be able to manage their own affairs in their territory and to receive compensation for any losses that may have been incurred in Darfur during the war.

Q. There was recently an escalation at the Kalma camp. Does that affect the chances of a peaceful settlement in Darfur?

Alor: It definitely would which is why we in the SPLM and as partners in GONU condemned the violence at Kalma because it was just an inspection inside the camp and if the officials knew that this would lead to negative effects of this magnitude then they should avoided it especially in circumstances where we are facing international pressure due to the Darfur problem and therefore we cannot put more fuel to the already raging fire.

The result of the events of Kalma was not confined to the SPLM freezing their participation in the governments of the three Darfur states, but it exacerbated to the extent that there were resignations among members of the NCP from the people of Darfur on the government of South Darfur.

Q. The NCP described the SPLM step to freeze their participation in the governments of Darfur as an attempt to make political gains?

Alor: I was surprised when I read in an interview that the Mandour Al-Mahdi [NCP official] said that the SPLM suspension of participation in the governments of Darfur is just an attempt to make political gains. So what would he say about the members of the NCP not only froze their participation like the SPLM but resigned? Was that also made for political gains by the NCP? I think we as a government, and officials have a responsibility towards our people and this compels us to deal with national issues in a responsible manner, and what happened at Kalma camp was irresponsible. It is clear that whoever did this only had the military aspect in their mind and did not think of the political provocation of what they did. Sudan is facing problems now because of Darfur and because of their acts. Genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity is the behavior of the army and security elements, and the government bears that responsibility. We in the SPLM do not appease when it comes to the major national issues, because this is the fate of these people. We as people and government are threatened by the international community because of these acts. Sometimes I am optimistic, but such events that happened at Kalma camp come to frustrate me and make me wonder whether we in the GONU read from the same paper or do we have different cards.

Q. The Chinese envoy came to Khartoum in a visit that appeared strange to observers, what is the reason for the visit at this time?

Alor: How was it a strange visit?

Q. It was strange in the sense that the visit was not announced before. Also what new is he carrying considering the fact that we know the positions of China's top government officials which calls for cooperation with the ICC and to reach a settlement in Darfur?

Alor: First the Chinese envoy did not make any suggestion that his country would use the veto power. What was reported in the Khartoum newspapers is wrong. He clearly stated that there is nothing at this point that requires the use of the veto because the case is still in its early stages and such talk is therefore premature. People must also ask themselves when China ever used veto throughout its history. I think it does not exceed two or three at most. In my opinion what is between Sudan and China so far does not amount to having China venture with using the veto.

Q. Their interests would push them to do so?

Alor: What interests? China's trade with Sudan does not exceed 7 billion dollars, but do you know the size of their trade with the Western world? I believe that its interests with us are incomparable with the Western world. We must do the right thing and not fool ourselves. The Chinese envoy came to Sudan because there is friendship between his country and us, but their position is clear: the need to deal with the ICC. Their position in favor of the resolution 1593 which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC in 2005 and this decision wasn't even objected Russia. So far there is nothing that pushes China to change its position. We must ask ourselves; against those who China use its right to veto? Can they use it against themselves? Because according to UN Security Council Resolution 1593, the ICC prosecutor is mandated by the Chinese themselves.

Q. Then what proposal did the Chinese envoy carry with him?

Alor: The envoy came to talk about the ICC, among other things. He urged the government to cooperate with the ICC and the international community. He visited Juba and met with the First Vice president because China has interests in all parts of Sudan. The most important thing that we cannot expect China to use the veto for us, because what China says to us is the same that is demanded by the international community and they are all trying to reach a deal with Sudan in a form of a compromise and to deal with the international community.

Q. Even the United States and France are seeking that?

Alor: Yes and the last visit was by French delegation, which I met last night and today [Monday September 1st and Tuesday September 2nd] with the same messages; to cooperate with the international community and not to dissent from international consensus so that they can help us. This is the talk of the Americans, British, French, Chinese and others. We need to know our real weight, because we are not a superpower in the world and not even in the region. We are Sudanese and our capacity is limited. The remaining period until the decision of the ICC judges is a short one and must do something before Oct. 15 because if we did not do anything there is a substantial possibility that a decision will be made by the ICC judges. If an arrest warrant issued against the president then this will complicate the problem. That is why we in the SPLM insisted in cooperating with the ICC to halt the issuance of an arrest warrant for the president or postpone it at the worst.

Q. What is required specifically from the government to avoid the issuance of arrest warrant for the President?

Alor: With regard to the issue of Ahmed Haroun and Ali Kushayb government can deal with the ICC, directly or indirectly through the Sudanese lawyers or foreign, and also for the case of the president, who is accused By the ICC prosecutor.

Q. But the president has not been formally accused yet by the court. It is just a request for his indictment?

Alor: Yes, but there is a request and we must deal with this through lawyers as an invalid accusation due to the reasons determined by the advocates. If we do not then the next stage by the court is a warrant that would be issued for the president. Why does the NCP want this to happen? We are seeking to halt the issuance of the arrest warrant for the president, or postpone it at the worst so that we can solve the Darfur problem that will lead to the closure of the court file through national reconciliation that will strip the ICC from its arguments.

We find it strange that the NCP does not see this reality and is giving its back to the wall after the door closes. We in the SPLM firmly believe that this inevitably lead to the international community breaking this door over our heads if we insist on this behavior. We do not want this to happen, but we look good before the world. That we are a state that respects international laws and deal with things in a civilized manner. That is our position in the SPLM.

Q. Is there a willingness within the GONU to make concessions to resolve the Darfur issue even if it impacts the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) [between North and South]?

Alor: First the CPA is not against any other peace agreement in Sudan, but we say that it represents an appropriate framework to resolve the remaining problems of Sudan and any concessions come through negotiations, and the demands of Darfur movements that were raised in previous rounds of peace talks is not a reason for us to fighting with this intensity until the international community intervenes and reaches international tribunals. But we cannot talk about concessions before entering into negotiations. The concessions are inevitable from the side of the government and the armed movements until people reach a compromise.

Q. Will the President participate in meetings of the United Nations General Assembly which starts this month?

Alor: Up till now there is no decision made in this regard, but generally there is nothing so far that prevents the President from participating in the meetings.

Q. How do you assess the positions within the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the influential countries within it the crisis regarding the ICC? Are there positive attitudes in favor of Sudan?

Alor: What I would say that the UNSC has the authority to intervene to stop the decision of the ICC judges and at the same time stop its implementation if passed, but the best for us to is for the UNSC to interfere now and prevent the issuance of arrest warrant for the president, but for the UNSC to do that, there are things required of us.

Q. What these things?

Alor: First deal with the ICC and proceed seriously to solve the Darfur problem. If we do this we can ask our friends to move to compel the UNSC to suspend the ICC work and stop the issuance of a decision. But unfortunately we only have one month remaining and so far we in the SPLM do not see any seriousness by the NCP to move on these tracks in order to avoid the problem.

Q. Some officials in government and the NCP hinted that there are demands other than the ones you mentioned?

Alor: Like what?

Q. The president's resignation and changing the directions of the regime and the composition of the government?

Alor: This statement is totally untrue, we are dealing with what has we have over the counter and not with speculations. I can confirm with no doubt that no one asked for a regime change.

Q. The intelligence director Salah Gosh talked about pressure to change the composition of the regime?

Alor: There is no such requirement at all. No one asked for the resignation of the president, since his resignation means in practice that a new president has to be installed with a new government. Such demands do not exist and are also unacceptable from our side. As I mentioned to you all we have heard in terms of demands from the international delegations that visited the country or our delegations that visited Europe and America are only these two requirements. Any talk of the demands other than that I do not want to call them "newspaper talk" (laughing).

Q. I asked a foreign ministry official some time ago about the truth of the US demands, he said it is to change the directions of the NCP and that there are some leaders who adopt these trends at the top of the government?

Alor: There are absolutely no such demands.

Q. Can the president's resignation override the procedures for the issuance of arrest warrant for him?

Alor: (In surprise). There is no talk about the president's resignation at all, because that is inherent right of the Sudanese people and not subject to dictates of foreign forces except if they resort to military force, and this is out of the question. No international official ever mentioned that that they want intervene militarily in Sudan.

US administration walking tightrope over relations with Sudan

(Sudan Tribune) – The US administration in its final days is facing the dilemma of trying to break a deadlock in Darfur through throwing carrots to Khartoum without infuriating the public opinion which may hurt GOP at the upcoming presidential elections.

Yesterday the Sudanese political parties' commission called on Khartoum to fully normalize ties, an unusual nudge by a body dominated by the ruling NCP. But this move can easily be understood in light of the statements by Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq, who told the Los Angeles Times: "We want to do something with the Bush administration before they leave. Our experience with the Democrats has been bitter."

Khartoum has every reason to fear a democratic president in the White House. Barack Obama has surrounded himself with individuals considered "hawks" towards Sudan. This includes Obama's running mate Joe Biden and his foreign policy adviser Susan Rice who both called for military action against Khartoum.

Sudanese officials who spoke to the Los Angeles Times said that the US and Sudan were scheduled to resume direct negotiations in mid-September. But in Khartoum foreign ministry officials said they have no knowledge of such a date.

Under discussion is a proposed agreement by the US to not fight Sudan's bid to postpone an impending ICC arrest warrant for Bashir, officials said.

In return, Khartoum would agree to concessions, including accelerated deployment of United Nations peacekeepers, increased anti-terrorism cooperation and improved humanitarian assistance for the western region of Darfur.

The Chicago Tribune reported that on the anti-terrorism track Washington wants the extradition of four terrorists believed to be hiding in Sudan but gave no details.

Sudan newspaper to defy publishing ban

(Reuters) - A south Sudanese newspaper editor on Sunday said he would defy a suspension of his publishing license by getting his daily printed outside the country.

Nhial Bol said he would import his paper, The Citizen, and distribute it himself in south Sudan, in a direct challenge to Khartoum's historic hold over the country's publishing industry.

Sudan's Khartoum-based media regulator, the National Press Council, suspended The Citizen's license last week, effectively shutting it down until further notice. The regulator said it was for "administrative reasons". But Bol, based in Juba, capital of Sudan's semi-autonomous south, claimed it was because he was employing journalists seen as hostile to the government.

On Sunday, Bol took out adverts in other national papers saying: "(The Citizen) will be printed in south Sudan's neighbouring countries and will be distributed all over south Sudan." He was not immediately available for further comment.

Earlier this week the regulator said it had lifted a similar suspension on another English-language newspaper, the Sudan Tribune, after reaching a deal with its southern-based editor.

Tribune editor William Ezekiel said the ban was lifted after he agreed to appoint an acting editor-in-chief to represent him in Khartoum. He added he was also planning to start printing his paper in Kenya to avoid what he described as Khartoum censorship and hostility to southern journalists.

Darfur rebels name Janjaweed figure leading recent attacks

(Sudan Tribune) — A Darfur rebel group said they identified the Janjaweed leader who spearheaded attacks on villages in North Darfur this weekend. "His name is Mohamed Khair Samijodo. He is from Mahr tribe" Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune.

Yesterday, rebel movements said they clashed with the assailant army troops in different positions in northern and western Darfur. The Sudanese army dismissed the accusations indicating they only target carjackers; protect roads, UNAMID and humanitarian convoys.

However, the AU-UN peacekeeping forces confirmed partly the attacks today in its daily bulletin saying the Sudanese troops attacked Disa and Bir Maza, 69 and 90 km north of Kutum. UNAMID also said the assailant targeted SLM-Abdel Wahid troops, as one of its commander, Ibrahim Hillu claimed yesterday. The SLM-Unity Command also says they clashed with the army in the same area.

The hybrid mission further spotted attack helicopters landing at Kutum airstrip, a convoy of 120

vehicles and trucks transporting heavy armed troops in the area of Malha.

Al-Nur said the attacks were coordinated with the Sudanese army who used Antonov fighters and helicopter gunships. "There are 40,000 who were displaced as a result of these attacks. This is a critical time because the rainy season is approaching and there is no food or medicine for them" he said.

"This happens in the 21st century before the eyes of the whole world and weeks after the government brutally killed people inside a camp mostly women and children" he added.

The SLM leader also criticized UNAMID saying they "have not properly lived up to their responsibility to protect civilians".

Last month Sudanese soldiers and security officers attacked Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur killing at least 30 people and injuring many more.

UNAMID at the time issued a strongly worded statement condemning the "excessive force" used by Sudanese authorities against residents of the camp.

"UNAMID strongly condemns the excessive, disproportionate use of lethal force by the GoS security forces against civilians, which violated their human rights and resulted in unacceptable casualties" the mission said in an unusually harsh statement today.

Sudan army suffers heavy casualties in Darfur Jebel Marra – rebels

(Sudan Tribune) –Suleiman Marjan, a leading commander in the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune from Darfur that their troops in Al-Aaradib Alasharra, eastern Jebel Marra, inflicted heavy casualties on the Sudanese troops yesterday. According to Marjan, SLA troops killed more than 200 soldiers and militiamen and wounded around 80 others. Also, the rebel commander says they detained 35 Prisoners of War. They further destroyed over 25 Land Cruisers and captured some other vehicles. But, Marjan said they are also monitoring closely the movement of government troops in the region.

