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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

SRSQ Gazi says DDR enters implementation phase, government criticizes donors for not fulfilling pledges

Al-Sahafa reported that the SRSQ Ashraf Qazi said yesterday that DDR was close to entering the implementation phase because policies are in place, planning is underway and funding is available.

Qazi made the statements while addressing meeting yesterday of the National Council for DDR.

He commended the progress made so far in most DDR key areas as well as the Council's constructive approach towards the largest DDR operation world.

Factual coverage of UNMIS press release on DDR was also carried by many other local dailies.

However, **Sudan Vision** reported that the Sudanese government criticized donors for not honoring their obligations made at donors' conference Oslo last May. The Minister of the Presidency and President of the National Council for DDR Bakri Hassan Salih called on UN and donors to honour their pledges.

He said any postponement would have negative impacts on peace process in Sudan and emphasized the need for implementing DDR program via smart partnership.

Bakri commended the cooperation of UN and DDR national council and called for provision of \$ 430 millions which the donors pledged in Oslo.

Preparatory work for the DDR programme launched

Sudan News Agency (SUNA) carried a report stating that the Government has renewed its commitment to provide funding for the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) as a national programme, meanwhile the National Council for DDR has urged the United Nations and the donor countries to honor their commitments towards the programme.

The Council has decided in the meeting it held at the Republican Palace on Tuesday, headed by the Minister for Presidential Affairs, Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih, and attended by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to the Sudan Ashraf Qazi and representatives of donor countries, to continue planning the implementation of the programme. It also delegated the NSDDR and the SSDDR to study with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning the possibility of issuing a stamp on reintegration.

The Council also directed the NSDDRC and the SSDDRC to complete their structure and to involve the state governments in the implementation of the programme.

Dr Sulaful Deen Salih, the North Sudan Commissioner at the DDR told journalists those preparations to involve the Darfur armed groups that have signed the peace deal into the process, stressing on the need to control the spread of arms. He said the council has expressed

its satisfaction over the development in the process of disarmament in both north and southern Sudan, noting that there were some hurdles facing the funding. He said the council has stressed the need to come up with alternative proposal and to make the voice of Sudan heard so as to attract funding for the operations. He said they were waiting for the UN to begin the process of reintegration of some 3,300 person in the Blue Nile area. He said the government of Sudan will on its part carry out all the work relevant to the disarmament in eastern Sudan by the end of the year.

He said the establishment of eighty three agricultural societies in the Blue Nile and the provision of funding for those societies will benefit between 200 to 250 thousand demobilized persons and other people in the host communities.

Meanwhile William Deng the SSDDR commissioner has underlined the importance of backing the DDR programme to serve stabilization of peace in the country.

US charge d’Affaires pays surprising visit to Nyala

Ray Al-Shaab reported that US Charge d’Affaires Alberto Fernandez a surprise visit to Nyala (South Darfur) yesterday where he met with the Governor of the State Ali Mahmoud. The issues discussed were unknown and journalists were barred from asking Fernandez questions.

Fernandez’s visit came after his recent statements in which he called upon the government for clarification on violence in Kalma camp.

However, **Al-Ray Al-Aam** newspaper said Fernandez visited Kalma camp and called on the government to cooperate with the International Community and UNAMID for security in Darfur. He told journalists that his visit aimed at familiarizing himself with situation of IDPs in the camp.

Government denies Washington demands terrorist’s handover in return for normalization

Al-Rai Al-Aam carried a report stating that Sudan government denied that Washington demanded the handover of four terrorists in return for normalizing its relations with Sudan.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor said Government has no knowledge about any American demands for terrorist to normalize its relations with Sudan adding that dialogue with America was in complete halt due to US preoccupation with elections.

The Foreign Minister has confirmed differences between NCP and SPLM over ICC. He said the Crisis Management Committee will hold a meeting before departure of Sudan’s delegation for NY in a bid to reach a common position on the crisis.

Government says Samar’s report biased

Al-Sahafa stated that the Government strongly criticized yesterday the report of the Rapporteur for Human Rights in Sudan Sima Samar.

Sudan Government official said Samar’s report was biased and neglected the political and constitutional developments in the country. He said the report was “selective” adding that the government would seek termination of her mission.

Arab ministerial committee set up to resolve Darfur crisis

Local dailies reported that Arab League set up a committee headed by Qatar, the League's Secretary General and AU Commission chairperson to arrange for peace negotiations between Sudan Government and Darfur rebels in Qatar. The committee comprises Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Egypt.

Khartoum welcomed the move. However, SLM (Abdul Wahid faction) rejected the Arab League initiative to resolve Darfur crisis. SLM spokesperson Yahia Bolad said they oppose any initiative outside the UN framework particularly that the Arab countries are linked by interests with the regime in Khartoum.

Foreign Ministry denies media reports about Alor

Al-Rai Al-Aam quoted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as clarifying that the statements attributed to the Foreign Minister Deng Alor about a crisis within the government over ICC are incorrect.

The Ministry stated yesterday that the Minister Deng Alor said, "National discussion is initiated between all Sudanese with regard to cooperation with the ICC. NCP and SPLM hold different positions. NCP is opposing dealing with the Court while SPLM is calling for dealing with the ICC".

Government reacts to US Ambassador's prediction for arrest warrant against Bashir

Al-Sahafa reported that the government strongly reacted to the predictions of the US Ambassador to UN yesterday that ICC arrest warrant for Bashir would be issued by mid October.

Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said Haroun and Kushayb would not be handed over to save another person. "This is a cheap blackmailing," he said. "ICC is maneuvering to secure hand over of Haroun and Kushayb," he added.

SPLA is killing and looting in the Lakes State

Al-Intibaha carried a report stating that SPLA committed large scale looting in Rumbek markets when it began campaign last Monday to collect arms from civilians, leading to clashes with civilians who refused SPLA's selective disarmament.

SPLA also disarmed the Prisons and Wildlife forces in the Lakes State without any clarification although these forces are organized. Influential politicians in the State held GoSS president responsible for violence in the area and threatened to take measures to stop SPLA's targeting of certain tribes in the State.

Tens have been killed in the clashes between civilians and SPLA. Although casualties have not been announced but the number of the wounded persons reached 41 in Rumbek hospital.

Lakes State accuses SPLA of violating disarmament mandate

Miraya FM stated that the Legislative Council of Lakes State has announced sending an urgent message to the State Governor to protest the search operations carried out in the Council's premises yesterday by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The seven points protest letter signed by the Speaker of the Council Honorable Isaiiah Alier, assured that the search did not respect the immunity of the Council and its members.

The letter also condemned the severe beating of the Deputy Speaker of the Council Honorable Marik Nanga and the Prison Police Brigadier Majak Barkue.

The Speaker of the Lakes State Legislative Council said copies of the message were sent to the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, the Speaker of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, and the Ministers of Interior and of Parliamentary Affairs.

Earlier, the Speaker of the Legislative Council of the Lakes State called on SPLA to stop the disarmament operation of Police and other security organs.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the SPLA Force Brigade 26, Brigadier Deng Manjo Chan, said that all the looted properties of the civilians including those of the State government officials will be returned to their owners.

He also promised that investigations would be carried out and soldiers found guilty would be punished according to the military laws.

The Governor of the Lakes State Daniel Awet Akot said that the process of the firearms collection was successful as there were no casualties, but on the other hand he condemned the soldiers for physically assaulting the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Council.

The State Government earlier authorized SPLA to collect illegal weapons after an agreement with local chiefs and some armed groups.

Kush is evidence that Sudan is targeted – Obeid

Al-Rai Al-Aam quoted the State Minister for Information, Dr. Kamal Obeid, as saying that the emergence of a new rebellion in northern Sudan known as “Kush Liberation Movement” is clear evidence that there are plans to target the entire country of Sudan, not just a particular regime or party.

Obeid made the statements in response to reports about the emergence of the movement in America. He accused Jewish circles of providing funding for such movement.

The State Minister reiterated Sudan Government’s rejection to any preconditions or dictations on the part of US Administration for normalizing its relations with Sudan.

Websites/International News Coverage

UN envoy in Sudan salutes progress in disarmament process

(Sudan Tribune) – The U.N. Secretary General Special representative in Sudan saluted today the progress made in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process in Sudan.

The DDR agreement is an important component of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending two decades of civil war between the Government and the former rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement.

This operation is considered by the UN as the most complex and largest operation of its type in the world.

"Policies are in place, planning is under way and the funding for some initial steps is available," said Ashraf Qazi, in a speech before the National DDR Coordination Commission Tuesday.

He also commended the National DDR Council as well as the North and South DDR Commissions for their constructive approach to resolving the regions long-running conflict.

Qazi pledged the full commitment of the UN to launching a pilot project in one of the three areas (most likely Blue Nile State) before the end of the year, noting that discussions to achieve this are well advanced between North and South DDR Commissions and the UN.

However, the UN envoy to Sudan acknowledged that much remains to be done. "Adequate and timely funding for reintegration must be secured especially from donor countries regardless of whatever uncertainties may lie ahead," he said.

"Adequate and timely funding for reintegration must be secured, especially from donor countries, regardless of whatever uncertainties may lie ahead," he stated.

Qazi called for a round-table meeting of the parties, the UN and the donor community in October with the hope of achieving further agreements on demobilization.

He welcomed the appointment of William Deng Deng as the Chairperson of the National DDR Coordination Council.

Top UN official in Sudan hails progress in disarmament process

(UN/DPI)- The top United Nations envoy to Sudan today praised the progress made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in the war-torn country, the most complex and largest operation of its type in the world.

Speaking in the capital Khartoum, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi – the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan – saluted the moves made towards achieving the key benchmarks of the DDR programme.

"Policies are in place, planning is under way and the funding for some initial steps is available," Mr. Qazi, who also heads the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), told the National DDR Coordination Commission.

Mr. Qazi also commended the National DDR Council as well as the North and South DDR Commissions for their constructive approach to resolving the regions long-running conflict.

The DDR agreement is an important component of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ending the long-running north-south civil war between the Government and the former southern rebels.

The 21-year war between the Sudanese armed forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) left at least two million people dead and displaced another 4.5 million.

"Such progress is central to peace in all of Sudan, including Darfur," Mr. Qazi noted in a press release while pledging the full commitment of the UN to launching a pilot DDR project, most likely in Blue Nile state, before the end of the year.

Despite the achievements in advancing the DDR programme, Mr. Qazi acknowledged that much remains to be done to make peace a reality in the region.

“Adequate and timely funding for reintegration must be secured, especially from donor countries, regardless of whatever uncertainties may lie ahead,” he stated.

Mr. Qazi called for a round-table meeting of the parties, the UN and the donor community in October with the hope of achieving further agreements on demobilization.

US official predicts arrest warrant for Sudan president mid-October

(Sudan Tribune) – A senior US official said he expects the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant next month for Sudanese President Omer Hassan al-Bashir.

The Egyptian Middle-East news agency (MENA) quoted the US Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad as saying that the ICC judges may make a ruling on the request for an arrest warrant by mid-October.

Khalilzad said the judges will likely endorse charges against Al-Bashir but added that it may not include the counts of genocide.

The US diplomat further said that Ocampo’s request against Al-Bashir may be a “maneuver” to force Khartoum to hand over two suspects already charged by the ICC last year.

Sudan has so far refused to hand any of citizens to be tried abroad and insisted that Haroun and Kushayb have been cleared of any wrongdoings.

However the US envoy at the UN said that the charges against Al-Bashir may be dropped if the Sudanese government sends the two suspects to The Hague.

Under the Rome Statute which governs the work of the ICC, if the judges issue an arrest warrant it “remains in effect until otherwise ordered by the Court”.

Charges against an individual may be withdrawn only when the accused stands before the ICC during what is known as “conformation of charges” hearings. The ICC prosecutor may withdraw charges during the hearing or the Judges may decline to confirm them.

Darfur rebels dismiss Arab League initiative to resolve crisis

(Sudan Tribune) – The Darfur rebels groups criticized an initiative announced by the Arab League in Cairo today to resolve the crisis in the war ravaged region.

The Arab League foreign ministers decided to establish a six-member committee headed by Qatar, Arab League Secretary General and the African Union (AU) chairman.

The resolution adopted by the Arab League proposed Qatar as the host country for the peace talks between the Sudanese government and the Darfur rebels.

Ahmed Hussein spokesperson of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said that his group welcomes any efforts to achieve peace. However he questioned whether the Arab League qualifies as an impartial mediator.

“The question is whether these [peace] efforts will be conducted in an unbiased atmosphere and pressuring Khartoum to make the necessary concessions” he said.

The JEM official noted that the Arab League has “maintained silence over human rights violations in Darfur including the Kalma camp massacre last month”.

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)-Unity said that the Arab League initiative “came late five years and only came to save the Sudanese president of the impasse in front of international justice”.

The group’s spokesperson Mahgoub Hussein added that the Arab League “cannot be fair” and that “it lost its credibility before the Darfur crisis”.

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said that it is “premature to talk about peace talks before conflict suspension”.

“The government is attacking our positions as we speak in an unprovoked attack. They are violating the cease-fire agreements. This is not an attitude of party seeking peace” he added.

Al-Nur further said that the government “wants to get around their obligations by seeking meaningless peace negotiations”.

“They already know what they need to do. It does not take 4 or 5 rounds of talks to get this done. The disarmament of Janjaweed militias, stopping the killings of civilians, facilitating humanitarian aid and deployment of peacekeepers are all in the hands of Khartoum to make it happen” the SLM leader said.

South Sudan army kill 7 civilians beat Lakes deputy speaker

(Sudan Tribune) — Rumbek town had an unnatural air on Monday as civilians stayed indoors in fear of harassment from soldiers charged with carrying out a disarmament campaign.

Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers in Rumbek severely beat the Lakes State Deputy Speaker of Assembly, Marik Nanga Marik, on Monday morning as soldiers rushed to his house to collect guns.

As evening approached, SPLA soldiers started firing in the market, wounding seven people. The day’s casualties included two children aged 9 and 15, one woman, three men shot and one man wounded on his forearm by a spear.

Nanga said that the soldiers “came into my house earlier around 6 a.m. and they started beating up everyone at my house and I came out from my sleeping bed and asked soldiers what is going on.

"They immediately start beating me with my wife and scaring my children with guns by cocking their guns with live bullets. So I told one senior officer among the soldiers to take the gun of my bodyguard instead of beating everyone and my bodyguard had been officially given to me by Lakes state police to protect me."

“The gun belonging to my especial bodyguard has been taken away by soldiers despite that all constitutional post holders were given two bodyguards armed with guns by state police as well as gun number licenses that remain in police record,” added Nanga.

Local businesses were hit by soldiers who undertook to loot valuables. "This is just harassment only and it is not disarmament at all," he accused.

Lakes’ Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement Agencies Awan Guol Riak had advised Rumbek community over local radio station FM-98 that “SPLA soldiers are carrying out today the disarmament and all community must stay indoor until 1 p.m., and everyone must to

cooperate with soldiers. Open your door and let them check your house whether there are guns inside or not.”

In his radio address Riak urged SPLA soldiers not to hinder the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) or other non-governmental organizations, saying that UN vehicles were not required to stop at checkpoints.

The Lakes State Legislative Assembly supports the disarmament of civilians, and passed a provisional disarmament order last year. Implementation has not gone as planned, however. The military intends to disarm prison staff, police, and wildlife agents, whereas the Assembly sees these as organized forces essential for governing the state.

Speaker of the Assembly Isaiah Alier Mashinkok said, “it is a great surprise to me — the soldiers are looting houses, shops, and even they are beating school children who have no relationship with guns.” He added that staff salaries were carried off when the Ministry of Agriculture was looted.

Speaking with Sudan Tribune after the turbulent events, the head of the main police in Lakes State, Lt. Col. Johnson Maker, described the disarmament as taking place in an “unlawful manner.”

Maker regretted that his forces had not been informed of the disarmament by state authorities. “This second disarmament has been carried out in a crazy manner — even our police soldiers were ordered by SPLA soldiers to surrender their guns to them by force.”

The state police, prison, wildlife service and fire brigade were not involved during the current disarmament, according to Maker.

“Our immunity as honorable members of Lakes State Legislative Assembly is not respected; my deputy speaker has now become a victim,” said Speaker Mashinkok.

The governor of Lakes State, Daniel Awet Akot, argued that the disarmament campaign was necessary because 183 people have been reported killed by gunshots in just the period since January. Critics speculate that inter-clan fighting is in need of resolution before violence can be reduced, but Akot maintained that disarmament is the solution to avoid killings.

Sudan’s Upper Nile Governor ends Germany trip

(Sudan Tribune) — Governor of Upper Nile State, Gatluak Deng Garang, today concluded a ten-day visit to Germany after a meeting with Lars Wilke, Desk Officer for Sudan in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn.

The two sides discussed issues of bilateral relations and economic development in the oil rich state. The Governor reiterated the need for a State Master Plan, which would act as a development roadmap for the next 3 years.

“Germany has experienced the same situation similar to us and has had tremendous success in post war reconstruction, this is a country we can identify with, it is this experience we need to develop Southern Sudan and Upper Nile State,” the Governor said.

Wilke assured the Governor that Germany is currently working with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) to build a good system of governance and in the area of good clean drinking water. German GTZ is also working in the South in areas of infrastructure and will be directed to engage with Upper Nile State immediately.

Private Sector with expertise in Master Plan and Development Road-Map will be encouraged to do business with Upper Nile State, the German official asserted.

The meeting was attended by Steven Dheiu Dau, Upper Nile State's Minister for Finance, Trade and Economic Planning, and Doboal Lualweang, Bilateral Relations' Director of Southern Sudan Ministry for Regional Cooperation.

Governor Garang also inked a contract with a German private company to link the Upper Nile State with the rest of the country and abroad by airplane.

The Upper Nile State also agreed to provide facilities at the airport while the German company will provide helicopter services for government transport and medical evacuation.

The German business man also agreed with the Governor Garang to send a representative next week to Malakal to sign a contract and introduce the "African Homes" Pre-Fab Houses and model of low cost houses.

The housing projects are one of top priorities of the Governor he had discussed the issue also with Chinese investors during his visit to China last month.

The Governor and the accompanying delegation met with a ship yard owner who also agreed to supply the State with one boat and one ferry. The Company consented to building of several shipping ports and a ship yards to revitalize river transport in southern Sudan.

The Governor agreed with German EDI International Drilling Company to conduct water drilling projects in the State within the next few weeks. EDI is currently working on joint water purification project with Signs of Hopes in Southern Sudan.

In a statement to Sudan Tribune the Governor calls on all private sector and investors around the world to come to Malakal and prospect the investment opportunities and chances to develop the State.

"Companies are also asked to conduct field assessments and information collection about the opportunities for investing in all areas of economic development," he said.

