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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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## Commentary

- Fragmentation of Sudanese political parties (by Awad Mustafa al-Haj, Khartoum Monitor website)

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Abyei chief administrator assumes his functions*

**Al-Sahafa** reported that the newly-appointed Abyei chief administrator Arop Moyak arrived in the area on Tuesday. He met with UNMIS officials and Sector Commander. He has deplored the incidents occurred last May but hoped to start a new page.

### *US is coordinating with ICC – Government*

**Al-Ahdath** said Sudan Government accused the US Administration of leading preemptive action to prepare the American and the international public opinion to support ICC decisions against Bashir.

State Minister for Information Kamal Obeid said the statement attributed to the US Ambassador to UN regarding ICC was evidence that US was behind Ocampo's decisions and the timing indicates coordination between US and ICC.

### *Khartoum is witnessing intensive activity to pre-empt ICC decision*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** carried a report stating that Khartoum will witness today and next week intensive international movements to defuse Darfur crisis and to address ICC application for arrest warrant against Bashir.

AUPSC commissioner Ramadan Lamamre and UN-AU chief mediator Bassole will arrive today in Khartoum for talks with Government officials on a range of issues. On Monday, South African President Thabo Mbeki is expected in Khartoum for similar talks.

### *North and South to demobilize 180,000, UN says*

**Miraya FM** reported that DDR officer in Juba Olaide Omideyei said that both North and South DDR Commissions have accepted to demobilize a total of 180,000 ex-soldiers in Sudan, within the coming three years. He said that a pilot program would begin in November this year and in the south in February 2009.

However, the planning and procurement of the necessary items to facilitate the process are still under consideration. Mr. Omideyei said that three camps would be established in south Sudan for the DDR process - in Torit, Malakal and Wau.

### *Minister of Foreign Affairs to lead Sudan's delegation to 63rd session of UN General Assembly*

**Sudan Media Centre** (SMC) said the Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor will lead Sudan's delegation to the UNGA meetings, scheduled to begin next Tuesday in NY.

Tomorrow, the Foreign Minister will visit Asmara for discussion with the Chad-Sudan contact group. **Al-Ahdath** newspaper quoted the Eritrean Foreign Minister as saying that the meeting of the Contact Group in Asmara will discuss restoration of relations between Sudan and Chad.

### ***Machar denies Congo seeking to detain LRA leader***

**Al-Ahdath** reported that the chief mediator of Ugandan talks Riak Machar said preparations have been completed for signing peace agreement between Ugandan Government and LRA at Sudan-Congo border town.

Machar at press conference yesterday in Juba upon return from Khartoum dismissed reports that Congo was preparing to detain LRA leader, forcing him to go into hiding.

On the other hand, the UN mediator for talks between Uganda and LRA returned to Juba after his attempts to convey peace agreement documents to LRA leader Kony failed. He said Kony intentionally switched off his telephone so that he was not reachable.

### ***Armed Misirryah reportedly blockade road in central area***

**Al Ra'y al-Aam** reports that an armed group of Misirryah tribesmen has blockaded the Hijlij - Al-Mujlad road in Al-Kharasanah area obstructing the travel of commercial trucks and vehicles. The group detained vehicles and forced drivers to stop at the blockade. According to an oil company truck driver, the armed men beat up two drivers so badly that they needed hospitalization.

### ***40 US investors to go on exploratory tour of southern states***

**Al Sahafa** reports that forty US investors will be going on an exploratory tour of the ten southern states from 21-25 September after Washington gave US businessmen and investors the backing to invest in the south. This is a practical step by Washington to exempt the southern region from the embargo imposed on companies investing in Sudan.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Sudanese elections could be delayed: southern minister***

**(Reuters)** - National elections in Sudan may be delayed by at least six months, a senior southern official said today, a development that could jeopardise a 2005 peace agreement between the north and south.

Luka Biong, the southern Minister for Presidential Affairs, told Reuters it would not be feasible to hold the elections before the agreed cut-off point of July 2009 because of heavy rains and a string of logistical problems.

Analysts said on Thursday that any serious hold up in the poll could undermine the accord and delay other parts of it. "Practically, it won't be feasible to have them by July," Luka Biong said late Wednesday, referring to the elections. His party, the south's dominant Sudan People's Liberation Movement, was considering calling a meeting with the northern National Congress Party to arrange a change in the date. "We have a lot of reasons why it should be extended to the end of the year but this is subject to the approval of the two parties," he said. No one was immediately available for comment from the National Congress Party.

More time was also needed to set up civic education sessions to prepare the public for what was going to be a "very complex" proportional representation electoral system. There had also been delays in appointing the members of a National Electoral Commission. Other leading figures in the south have also raised worries about delays in processing the results of a national census that will be used to set out candidates and constituencies.

Ashraf Qazi, head of the U.N. mission in Sudan, last month said northern and southern leaders would have to work hard to meet the July deadline. They still had to demarcate their shared

border, particularly in the contested oil-rich region of Abyei.

Sudanese political analyst Alfreed Lokuji said a delay in the election would raise worries over the timing of a referendum on independence for the south, promised in 2011 under the peace deal. "It is important to do things on time. If we (the south) ask for a delay on the elections they (the north) could ask for a delay on the referendum," he said.

Sudan analyst John Ashworth said a serious hold-up could undermine confidence among southerners, many of whom still distrust Khartoum. But he added it might be worth putting up with a delay if it meant the elections process ran smoothly. "The elections must be seen to work, otherwise they are also destabilizing," he said.

### ***UN rights envoy accuses Sudan of indiscriminate bombing in Darfur***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Sima Samar, U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Sudan yesterday accused Khartoum of indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Darfur and affording impunity to those who abuse human rights in the troubled region.

In her latest annual report presented Tuesday to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Samar said "The human rights situation on the ground remains grim." "A culture of impunity is prevalent; the state fails to investigate, punish and prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations," she further said.

The UN expert underlined "indiscriminate" and "disproportionate" bombing of civilians by Sudanese forces in eastern Darfur, as well as ongoing sexual violence and a wave of arbitrary arrests and disappearances.

She also highlighted the repeated bombing against civilians. "There are several reports of air attacks by government forces, leading to extensive civilian casualties," the report said, citing bombings in west Darfur and in north Darfur in the first half of this year.

"The majority of the bombs apparently impacted on civilian populated areas, including detonations in the vicinity of water installations, a school and a market," it continued, adding that scores of people were killed and wounded.

Sudan carried out 21 aerial bombardments in Darfur in the first three weeks of July, killing as many as 12 people, including children, according to Samar.

"The air strikes were carried out by the government of Sudan with Antonov aircrafts and MIG fighter jets," she said.

Samar called for Khartoum and the international community to give their "unconditional support to speeding up and completing the deployment of UNAMID". Concerns were mounting about "violations of civil and political rights in different parts of the country in the lead-up to the general elections" scheduled for 2009, she said.

She also raised concerns about 500 people, including activists and journalists, who disappeared after a rebel attack in Khartoum in May. The group is believed to be in detention where they may be subjected to torture, the report said.

Samar is to address the U.N. Human Rights Council on Monday. The 47-member forum renewed her mandate in December for another year, overcoming resistance from African and

Islamic states. Special rapporteurs are unpaid experts who are mandated by the Human Rights Council to provide it with independent assessments and recommendations regarding particular human rights hotspots.

### ***Lack of helicopters prevents verification of Sudan attacks - UNAMID***

**(Sudan Tribune)**— UNAMID said it was unable to confirm last week-end clashes between Sudanese troops and rebels in different parts of northern and western Darfur due to the lack of helicopters on 5-6 September, the Sudanese army attacked the positions of rebel movements near Disa and Birmaza, respectively 69 and 90 kilometers north of Kutum. The government said it was combating carjackers and looking to protect roads.

A UNAMID statement issued yesterday said it was unable to verify reports of the fighting due to its lack of air assets.

"The Mission military, police and security components intend to conduct assessment missions to the allegedly affected areas as soon as security and logistical constraints will permit." He statement said.

### ***Foreign Minister to Asmara for Sudan-Chad group meeting***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Foreign minister, Deng Alor, will lead Sudanese delegation to attend a meeting of contact group charged with the implementation of Dakar agreement between Khartoum and Ndjamena. The members of the contact group: Congo-Brazzaville, Eritrea, Gabon, Libya and Senegal plus Sudan and Chad are scheduled to meet in Asmara on September 12. The meeting was initially planned to take place on August 26.

The Ministerial meeting will discuss the normalization of bilateral relations between Sudan and Chad, the deployment of joint patrols to monitor the joint border, and the convening a summit of heads of State of the group to seal Sudan Chad reconciliation.

### ***Sudan militiamen kill 5 IDPs in attack on North Darfur camp - rebels***

**(Sudan Tribune)** — Darfur rebels have accused Sudanese government militias of attacking a displaced camp near the capital of North Darfur saying the assailants have killed 5 people. JEM and SLM officials told Sudan Tribune that pro-government Janjaweed militiamen attacked the Zamzam IDP camp, killing five displaced and wounded dozens others.

The officials regretted UNAMID's failure to protect civilians noting that the attack happened in El Fasher, the mission's headquarters.

JEM's Al-Nur also said Sudanese military Gunship helicopters and Antonov planes bombed Amar Jadid and Tarni locations in eastern Jebel Mara. The aerial attack destroyed the Tarni school. He also said civilians suffered casualties and figures would be available soon.

### ***South Sudan cabinet cuts down salaries***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – In a Council of Ministers' resolution passed last Friday, GoSS resolved to cut down salaries, emoluments and entitlements for constitutional post holders in the region. According to data presented at a last month's meeting of the Council of Ministers, Jonglei state was leads all ten Southern Sudan states with the governor paid a monthly salary of 17,650 Sudanese pounds (about \$8,800).

The Council of Ministers is expected to scrutinize present salary structures of civil servants in the near future for possible adjustments. Reportedly, most of the GoSS annual budget of \$1.4

billion, the bulk of which comes from oil revenues, has been spent on salaries since 2005, leaving insufficient finances for delivery of badly needed basic services to the people.

### ***Lakes State lawmakers condemn violence during disarmament process***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – The Lakes State Legislative Assembly condemned "disarmament atrocities" after a series of events in Rumbek town Monday that resulted in at least seven people severely or fatally injured and thousands of Sudanese pounds looted from local businessmen.

In a letter addressed to Governor Lt. Gen. Daniel Awet Akot, the Lakes State parliament protested the manner of disarmament in Rumbek town. "The August House deliberated ... and unanimously resolved" that the governor must appear before the parliament on Thursday to brief the members on the disarmament process, the statement said. The lawmakers also temporarily suspended the disarmament process in Rumbek.

Seven civilians were admitted to Rumbek Hospital on Monday evening with severe or fatal injuries after a shooting by SPLA soldiers in the market. The forces had been ordered to enter houses and search them for weapons. Full details of the incident have not yet emerged, and the number of victims is still indefinite. The deputy speaker of the Lakes State Legislative Assembly is also wounded after being severely beaten in a separate incident.

The Lakes State Council of Ministers has formed a committee to investigate losses and report to Governor Akot, according to Jeremiah Telar, the Acting Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who briefed legislators.

### ***AU-UN mediator to return to Sudan***

**(Suna website)** The AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibril Bassole, will return to Khartoum on Thursday [11 September] after a tour that took him to Egypt and Burkina Faso. He is due to call on a number of federal officials before flying to Al-Fashir, the headquarters.

### ***Darfur rebels reject Arab League's decision as attempt to save Bashir***

**(Saudi-owned daily Al-Sharq al-Awsat website)** Khartoum yesterday warmly welcomed the decision of the Arab foreign ministers' council to launch peace negotiations about Darfur to be hosted by Qatar under the sponsorship of an Arab ministerial committee. Meanwhile the armed movements in Darfur expressed reservations, saying it was an attempt to save President Umar al-Bashir from an ICC arrest warrant.

At the end of its meetings in Cairo, the council decided to form a committee comprising Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya, Egypt, Algeria, and Syria chaired by Qatari Prime Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim, AL SG Amr Musa, and the AU Commissioner to arrange peace talks in Qatar soon between the Sudanese Government and the armed movements in Darfur. , which Qatar will host soon, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive peace

Dr Sharif Harir, a top Sudan Liberation Movement-(Unity) official, was unimpressed, telling **Al-Sharq al-Awsat** that "too many initiatives weaken the Darfur issue". He said that "if the AL is trying to save Al-Bashir from the ICC, then its initiative is rejected as of now." In five years, he noted, the AL had not issued a single statement condemning the Sudanese Government in relation to Darfur. Similarly, the AL had not responded to the recent killings in the Kalma IDP camp and fighting in the Murrah Mountains "to say a single word condemning Khartoum". In his view, the initiative was "an attempt to weaken the international mediation, not to back it". He also described the AU's stance as weak and dishonourable.

Echoing Sharif's remarks, JEM spokesman Ahmad Husyan noted there had been no approach to JEM by the AL about its initiative, and added: "It is too early to talk about coordination between the movements." He accused the AL of bias and failing to "deal with the parties as equals" but said JEM would study and respond to the initiative if they received it from the AL.

United Sudan Liberation Movement Spokesman Abd-al-Latif Isma'il told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* the AL was not in a position to offer a solution since it had "become an umbrella covering the regime's genocide crimes." He condemned the AL and the AU "for their silence over the killing of civilians in Darfur and the continuing genocide crimes."

Opposition Ummah Party SG Dr Abd-al-Nabi Ali Ahmad told the paper that "national accord should be achieved first before the solution comes from abroad." Opposition Democratic Unionist Party welcomed the AL move, adding that the Sudanese "will not reject the help of those seeking to help them."

## Commentary

### *Fragmentation of Sudanese political parties*

(by Awad Mustafa al-Haj **Khartoum Monitor** website) It is well known that there can be no democracy without parties. For all Sudanese politicians who are loyal and devoted to their beloved country, believe in the necessity of strengthening and reinforcing all Sudanese political parties. That is to say, for enabling them to enter the coming presidential and general elections on an equal footing.

Regrettably, the Sudanese ruling party, the National Congress Party (NCP), is now doing its best to reinforce its party at the cost of some other parties. That is by attracting some leaders from the other rival parties. Now, the famous deep-rooted political party, the Unionist Democratic Party, (UDP), is complaining about losing some of its leaders for the benefit of the (NCP) of exploiting its status as the sitting party in power and of tempting a considerable number of (UDP) members to drop ranks and join the (NCP).

I think this method of weakening the competing parties for the benefit of the ruling party, is a new reprehensible way of securing a win in the coming elections. No doubt these actions can be deemed to be strong indicators showing clearly that the coming elections are not going to be conducted with the required impartiality and fairness. It is true that every party has the right to increase the number of its members and that the only acceptable and customary means for doing so is through patriotic national achievements, not the exploitation of authority and public money.

Now, the majority of the Sudanese people are suffering from the disastrous effects of the civil war, various injustices, and corruption. Currently, the Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert is being subjected to intensive investigations by the Israeli police, accused of receiving bribes from influential people as well as a number of other corruption related crimes. The Khartoum State governor and commissioner have recently exchanged serious accusations of corruption and negligence without any sort of response like suspensions, inquiries and investigations taking place in Israel.

Annual Auditor General reports are usually depleted by corruption and financial diversions, without the least bit of legal reaction. As for the public services, no Sudanese citizen hailing from the common people can attain any kind of education and medical care. That is due to the official negligence and the economic mismanagement which has led to financial inflation and currency value erosion. Nowadays, even in Khartoum, the Sudanese national capital, there are continuous shortages in electricity and water supplies.

After what was mentioned above as facts, is there anybody who expects us to believe that the Sudanese political leaders are ready to abandon their historical parties to join the National Congress Party?

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