

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 12 September 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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UN/ Agencies

Ki-Moon denies meeting with Haroun

(*Rai AlShaab*) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has denied his meeting with State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun, accused along with a Janjaweed Leader Ali Kosheib by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of committing war crimes against humanity.

He said that he did not meet with him personally without elaborating if he discussed with the government the dossier of his deportation or not.

Before embarking on his recent visit to Sudan, Moon conferred with the ICC Prosecutor Louis Oukambo, whom the latter asked of intensifying the UN pressures on the government to hand over the two suspects. On the other hand, Ban Ki-moon defended Libya as the venue for crucial peace talks on Darfur despite its spotty human rights record.

Ban and the government last week set Oct 27 as a date for talks in Tripoli between the Sudan government and Darfur rebels to push for peace ahead of the deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers in Darfur.

Before the Libya talks, Ban told reporters he would hold a high-level meeting on Darfur on Sept. 21 in New York, shortly before the annual U.N. General Assembly debate.

While saying it was his obligation to protect human rights, Ban said "there may be many different understandings or, again, interpretations" but that he appreciated "Libya's flexibility and kind gesture to hold this meeting."

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

No objection to amend DPA: Wasila

(*Sudan Vision*) Minister of State of Foreign Affairs , Al Sammani AlWasila, has stressed that there is no objection to amending some clauses of the Abuja Agreement if such an amendment lead to securing stability in Sudan and peace in Darfur.

In a meeting he held with reporters yesterday, Awsila rfuted the arguments coveyed by Abdul Wahid for not joining the political processes, related to compensations and a unified region. He affirmed that the Darfuri-Darfuri dialougue will resolve these

issues, and Abdul Wahid will consequently have no justification for refusing to join the negotiations, particularly considering that government will join these negotiations on equal status with the factions.

Bashir and Konare discuss preparations for the hybrid operation

(*AlRai AlAam*) President Omer Al-Bashir arrived in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa Tuesday to take part in Ethiopia's celebrations of the 3rd millennium, which coincides with current September the 12th 2007.

Following his arrival, Bashir held a closed-door meeting with the President of AU Alfa Omer Konare the current situation in Darfur states.

The encounter was reported to have discussed the joint coordination to implement the hybrid operation and the anticipated meeting late this month in New York to strike a plan for the deployment of the UN-AU forces.

In the meantime, AU Mission in Khartoum Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni expressed his regret to the incidents occurred last Monday in Haskanita, North Darfur, between the government and the peace non-signatory movements calling on the two sides to halt fighting in observance of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Mezni said that the cease-fire observation committee started investigation on the incident pointing out to the AU anxiety to these clashes. He confirmed that the AU troops pulled out of the area.

NCP regrets speech of Kiir on possibility of returning to war

(*AlIntibaha*) NCP's South Sector Spokesman Khamis Hagar has denounced statements of First Vice-President Silva Kiir on the possibility of resorting to war pointing out the southern citizen's aspiration for stability and development following 50-year of devastating civil war.

He said that the NCP has been attempting to urge the international community to bolster peace and stability in the south, adding that Kiir's statement would undermine all efforts exerted to mobilize support for rehabilitating the south.

Hagar boosted the campaigns carried out by the security authorities to collect illegal arms from the citizens, saying that the justice bodies have the right to put hands on any unlicensed weapons possessed by the people.

US warns its dependants of traveling to Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) US Department of State has warned American dependants of traveling to Sudan due to it described as "terrorism threats in Sudan" aiming at undermining US and western interests.

The US Department advised its citizens not to travel to Sudan and especially to Darfur states whereas the armed conflict has been ranging between the government and the

rebel movements, pointing out to the exposure of the US citizens to carjacking and armed robbery.

The Department stressed the necessity of avoiding tourism areas and commercial compounds as targets of terrorist attacks in kind of suicidal explosions or kidnapping acts. It said that those who were compelled to travel to Sudan, should bear valid pass ports for at least six months and obtain an entry visa to Sudan provided that application for obtaining the visa ought to be completed from the country where they reside in.

The Department indicated the seizure and detention of five foreigners in Darfur, August 2006 following their entry to Sudan through Banal town on the Chadian borders without the acquisition of the required documents.

However, the government demands from any person who desires to enter areas of Darfur to obtain before hand a special permission. Obtaining special permission is applicable to humanitarian workers, journalists and other media professionals.

In a related development, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-AIWaseela said that he discussed with the US Administration during his recent visit to America a report issued on Sudan in which Sudan was described as “ a partner in combating terrorism”, the case which rules out any reason to consider Sudan among countries sponsoring of terrorism.

He disclosed that he assured the US Administration of the government’s commitment to implement the hybrid operation provided the provision of the required finance equipment on the part of the international community.

He noted that he informed the Administration that the NCP and SPLM agreed on setting up a transitional administration for Abyei area saying that preparations for the demarcation of the area were currently underway pending acquisition of the original documents from the British government.

Sudan police raid SPLM offices in Khartoum

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Heavily armed police raided premises of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, the peace partner of the ruling National Congress Party, on Tuesday, threatening a partnership created under a peace deal that ended 20 years of north-south war, the SPLM said.

The former rebels said the raids, which targeted three of its offices in the capital, followed a campaign and slanderous attacks against senior SPLM officials in the national media.

"We are really fed up of what’s going on," Yassir Arman, deputy secretary general of the SPLM, told Reuters.

Khartoum’s state police announced, late in the evening, that it had carried out an important operation in all the parts of the state to collect the illegal arms. The police

said they seized important quantity of arms following the surprise searches in the capital.

SPLM sources said that heavily armed police and security forces, backed by armored personnel carriers, stormed their offices in Khartoum North, Dem, and Mogran, vandalising property, and in one case, breaking down a door.

Sudan First V.P arrives suddenly in Khartoum

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The First Vice-President, and President of the Government of southern, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, arrived in Khartoum Tuesday evening from Juba, following rumours on his killing in a plane accident.

The abrupt return to Khartoum aims to reassure Sudanese people about his wellbeing and dissipating rumours about his death propagated on Sunday, the official SUNA reported.

In an arrival statement at Khartoum airport, the First Vice President pointed out that those behind the rumours did not want to see stability and the rumours were aimed at creating unrest in the country.

The First Vice President stressed his commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, that the overall goal is to see a lasting peace in the country, and that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement would contribute to find a resolution to the question of Darfur.

It is not clear if his return is linked to the Sudanese police raids on SPLM promises, however tension was high in Khartoum on Tuesday evening.

Suspects Involved in Foiled Sabotage Still Under Investigation/ M of Justice

(SUNA) Ministry of justice has confirmed continuity of investigations with suspects said have involved in the recent foiled sabotage.

Minister of Justice Mohammed Ali al Mardi met a delegation from south Kordofan today in his office. The delegation visit aims at seeing some of suspects from the state sons arrested for investigation on background that they have been involved in the said sabotage.

The minister told the delegation members that the suspects are well treated according to their rights stated in the constitution. Meanwhile, some members from the delegation were allowed to see the detainees

China cites differences with US on Darfur, defends role there

(DPA) China's top diplomat on African affairs said Tuesday his country and the United States are still at odds on ways to resolve the ethnic conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

"The US government appreciates the Chinese stances on the Darfur settlement and has made appropriate remarks, but on specific issues, there remain some differences, particularly in deciding priorities" to tackle the conflict, said Chinese Ambassador Liu Guijin at UN headquarters in New York.

Liu said cooperation and communication at government levels remain "very good" between the two countries until they get down to what he called specific issues. But he did not elaborate during a press conference to discuss China's role in Sudan.

China has been criticized for not using its clout on the Sudanese government to stop the ethnic killing in Darfur. China does not agree with the death toll in Darfur, which has been estimated at more than 300,000 dead since 2003.

But Liu said China was singled out in Sudan where many European and Asian countries have larger economic stakes than China. He said French and British oil companies have larger investments, but have escaped media scrutiny.

Liu spent two days at UN headquarters to discuss China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations in Sudan and other African nations, but also to try to change the perception of his country's involvement in places where conflicts have resulted in high civilian casualties.

Allegation of Possible out Break War is Illogical / Al Dirdiri

(SMC) National Congress prominent member Al Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed undermines allegations of possible out break of war once again between north and south. He said this assumption is illogical particularly after signing of CPA. He said time of clash was over and Sudanese people have fed up war. He said the time is now for making development get associated together for sustainable peace and ignorance of war.

Finance Minister Pledges to Solve Investment Problems of Private Sector in South

(AlSharei AlSyassi) (SMC) - Minister of Finance Al Zubeir Mohammed Al Hassan expressed the government commitment to solve the problems of investment sector in Southern Sudan so as to boost development in the country. While addressing the final session of the forum of the national private sector in rehabilitation and developing Southern Sudan in the Friendship hall, Khartoum, the Minister revealed putting forth some national foundations for privatization and partnership.

He added that the government of Southern Sudan can participate in these. Al Hassan asserted that creation of a private sector in the South can be made in partnership between North and South sectors in the field of agriculture and industry. He added that the forum has positive results to boost private work in this stage and attract foreign investors.

The Minister affirmed that investment on the national level is suffering from problems relating to land, taxation and others. He appealed to businessmen in the North to

invest in the South and called for implementation of real investment work under the auspices of the President of the Republic.

Of his part, the General Secretary of SPLM Pagan Amum pointed the problems that may face the South if separation occurred because it experienced 50 years of war. He said the South needs huge investment and establishment of basic infrastructure which can happen with the help of the Northerners. He confirmed that unity is the attractive option so as to boost development in Sudan.

Amum added that the investment that will begin after this forum can be a new stage for the private sector to replace the state of war with peace and development. The General Secretary stated that the role of the private sector is to rebuild the confidence between the South and the North. He announced that the political system can create stability which can lead to development.

Pagan said that no preference is made to merchants of neighboring countries to their counterparts in Northern Sudan and confirmed that there is no prejudice in this regard and he concluded that the coming period will witness development and investment.

De mining restarts on Road between Kassala – Hameshkorieb

(*AlSharei AlSyassi*) Landmine Action Center of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs said it would restart de mining operations in Kassala Wednesday. The de mining operations were postponed due to rainy season

Manager of the Center Colonial Awad Al Bashir said a team was sent to Kassala to resume demining operations on the road between Kassala and Hameshkorieb which extended to about 170 kilometers.

Al Bashir said de mining operations on the road from Malakal – Rank – Juba has postponed also because of rains.

Darfur

Fierce clashes in South Darfur town alarm UN mission in Sudan

Press Release: United Nations- 12 Sep. 2007

Grave reports have emerged of fresh fighting between Sudanese Government armed forces and Darfur rebel groups in the south of the war-torn region, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) reported today, raising alarm about the timing of attacks, which came on the heels of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to the country.

UNMIS said the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) - which is operating in Darfur until the hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force (UNAMID) takes over next year - reported that fierce fighting took place yesterday afternoon in the town of Haskanita in South Darfur state.

The reports indicate that the violence between Government forces and rebels occurred close to the AMIS military group site in Haskanita, forcing mission personnel there to take cover and local civilians to seek refuge around the camp.

A statement from AMIS noted that while the details of the clashes have not yet been properly investigated, there is clear evidence of heavy fighting - including the use of helicopter gunships.

UNMIS also reported that four armed men shot and wounded an internally displaced persons (IDP) in the Kalma camp in South Darfur yesterday, while a boy from the Fur tribe was reportedly beaten by several armed men in the same camp.

On Sunday, a group of 20 women from an IDP camp in Zalingei in West Darfur were briefly detained by an Arab militia while fetching fire wood, but they were later released.

EU Okays Chad force plan to aid Darfur refugees

(Reuters, Sept 11 BRUSSELS) The European Union approved outline military plans on Tuesday for the deployment of an EU mission in Chad to help protect refugees from Sudan's Darfur conflict, an EU official said.

EU ambassadors backed a "crisis management concept" to provide security for civilians and aid workers, help stabilize eastern Chad and make it easier for humanitarian assistance to get through.

The mission could see up to 4,000 troops on the ground in Eastern Chad and a small adjoining area of the Central African Republic by year-end, the EU official said. The 27 EU member states are expected to rubber-stamp later this week the concept of operations agreed by ambassadors on Tuesday.

Ministers will take a final decision to launch the joint action later this month after the U.N. Security Council has given green light for the mission. Some 380,000 civilians are sheltering in eastern Chad. Most fled the civil war in Sudan but about 150,000 are local people forced from their homes as ethnic conflict has spilled over the border.

The European deployment and support for a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur would help create the security conditions for renewed peace talks on the conflict, due to begin in Libya on Oct. 27.

If all goes to plan, deployment for the EU mission would start at the end of the rainy season, in mid-October, and would be complete by year-end. The bulk of the troops will be French and its operational headquarter will be in Paris, the official said.

Minawi sends message to Abdul Wahid to join Tripoli talks

(AlIntibaha) SLM Leader and Chairperson of Darfur Transitional Authority Mini Minnawi is planning to send a message to SLM peace non-signatory Leader Abdul Wahid Nur to convince him to take part in Tripoli talks, scheduled for next Oct.

Spokesman of SLM (Free Will) rebel faction Ibrahim Sidik said that Chairman of Free Wish Faction Prof. Abdurrahman Musa, who would carry Minnawi's message to Nur, discussed with Minnawi progress of the DPA implementation and preparations for the Arab donor conference on Darfur.

He added that the two sides agreed on the necessity of the participation of all Darfurian movements, noting that the meeting also touched on the issue of his faction representation in the transitional authority commissions.

Darfur rebel movements differ over Tripoli as venue for talks

(AlSudani) View points of Darfur rebel peace non-signatory movements have varied on the avenue of the anticipated talks with the government, scheduled for next Oct. 27 in Tripoli, Libya.

While SLM's NUR has reiterated his categorical rejection to take part in the talks, JEM has fully supported the convocation of the forum in Tripoli, blaming, at the same time the mediator for not consulting the movements on the avenue of the negotiations.

The peace non-signatory movements described the recent visit of Moon as not "fulfilling their aspirations" as regards exercising pressure on the government to halt bombardment on the civilians and release the prisoners of conscious in the region.

JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam voiced his appreciation to the role being played by Libya in Darfur issue and its future relations with the region following the solution of the crisis. He criticized the NU-AU mediation in the roadmap context ruling out his movement rejection on the agreement of Tripoli as the forum for the talk's avenue.

In the same context, Nur said that Moon did not pressure the government during his recent visit to Sudan on the repatriation of the IDPs to their villages, payment of fair compensations, speeding up the deployment of the hybrid forces and expulsion of, what he termed, as the Arab elements, whom the government brought from Niger and Chad

JEM/SLM appeal for burial of Sudan's army soldiers

www.sudanjem.com

JEM/SLM-Unity Command appeals to International NGOs for help with burial of corpses of Khartoum army soldiers around Haskanita town, North Darfur.

The defeat of AlBashir army, September 10th, 07, has left anything between 500 to 600 dead soldiers in the area. There is now a real danger of an outbreak of disease, not to mention the sheer dignity of those men who were sent to their eminent death.

Since yesterday afternoon, local drums have been echoing, a traditional way of summoning local volunteers for communal work.

Regretfully, almost all of those who perished at the Haskanita battle came from marginalized areas including Darfur itself, Kordofan, Blue Nile and Central Sudan.

Their army officers, mostly drawn from the northern elite region were too quick to flee and abandon them to their unfortunate fate. The incident recalls the old disgusting dictum, too painful for many Darfurians to utter; namely "beating the slave with a slave". This strategy has gone totally wrong for Khartoum this time.

JEM leader says Govt. attacks may compromise Darfur peace talks

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Khalil Ibrahim, called upon the international community to put pressure on Khartoum to stop escalation of violence in Darfur region, emphasizing that attacks may compromise the forthcoming talks. The rebel leader told Radio France Internationale (RFI) on Tuesday that government attacks may endanger Darfur political process and the 27 October scheduled peace talks in Libya.

He said that Sudanese government carried Monday's attack against the position of JEM forces in Haskanita, in north Darfur, because it intends to control the maximum of territories before the deployment of the Hybrid Operation troops. JEM leader further said "By doing this kind of war, Khartoum wants to have a military solution."

China played determinant role for Darfur force acceptance - envoy

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Chinese envoy to Darfur said on Tuesday Beijing had played a "unique role" in efforts to bring peace to the Sudanese region and defended its policy of economic ties with Sudan without political strings.

Although China has been criticized for watering down U.N. resolutions on Darfur, Liu Guijin said it backed the world body's approach that will culminate in the dispatch of a "hybrid" 26,000-strong U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force.

"The Chinese side has made a huge effort," Liu told a news conference. "Particularly on the hybrid peacekeeping operation the Chinese side has utilized all kinds of channels and talked to the Sudanese government and persuaded them as an equal partner to accept the ... plan."

"On the resolution of the Darfur issue, we have played a very constructive and even unique role," he said, speaking through an interpreter. "We say that ... if you only utilize the exertion of pressure, sanctions, and even military power, that is not conducive to the settlement of the issue."

China is to send more than 300 engineering troops to Darfur next month to help prepare for the peacekeeping force. China, however, has been seen as the main opponent on the U.N. Security Council of the argument by Western countries that sanctions should be held in the background to force Khartoum to comply with peace moves.

AU says alarmed by Darfur fighting

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) said on Tuesday it was deeply concerned about recent fighting between government troops and rebels in south Darfur.

AMIS said it had received "extremely grave reports" about fighting on Monday in the town of Haskanita in Darfur between government forces and rebels that did not sign a 2006 peace deal with Khartoum.

"AMIS is deeply concerned about this fighting and calls for an immediate ceasefire by all parties," it said in a statement. "Given the critical stage of the peace process, the forthcoming negotiations in Libya and the commitments made by all parties to uphold the ceasefire, the nature, scale and timing of these attacks is astonishing."

The AU statement didn't designate which party is responsible of the attack but confirmed that heavy fighting took place yesterday in Haskanita.

British state minister: violence threatens peace; we will not take part in the hybrid operation

(*AlWatan, Sudan Tribune*) Ongoing violence in Sudan's Darfur region threatens to undermine peace talks planned for October between Khartoum and rebel groups, a British minister said as he toured the war-torn area on Tuesday.

British Foreign Office Minister for Africa Mark Malloch Brown made the remarks as the African Union said it was deeply concerned about "fierce fighting" in the Darfur town of Haskanita.

The timing of the attack, seven weeks before planned peace talks and four days after a visit to Sudan by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was "very alarming", the AU added.

The International Committee of the Red Cross also reported an "increased number of clashes" in Darfur in recent weeks, and said the security situation was taking a toll on aid operations.

He said Britain would not be contributing soldiers to the peacekeeping force, in line with Khartoum's demand for a predominantly African presence in Darfur, but was ready to fill funding gaps, including paying to airlift the first Nigerian and Rwandan brigades to Darfur next month.

Presidential advisor says failure of CPA will affect Africa

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) Sudanese presidential advisor and prominent member of the Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Mansour Khaled, has warned that failure of the CPA implementation will affect the whole African continent.

In a meeting with the members of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) office in Cairo last Sunday, Mansour Khaled, underlined the importance of the speech delivered by the SPLM leader and southern Sudan president, Salva Kiir, during a meeting last week with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in Juba.

He said that Salva Kiir focused his speech on the success or failure of Sudan in implementing peace agreement, and if failed it will affect African continent from Atlantic Ocean to Indian Ocean especially Eastern Africa, in addition to the Darfur

crisis. The first vice-president added that solution of Darfur crisis has to come up from the worrying parties, and its continuation will have negative impact on the Naivasha peace agreement.

US Special Envoy to Sudan criticized over Save Darfur statements

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The Save Darfur coalition said today that they have no intention of easing their campaign aimed at pressuring world governments to end the Darfur crisis.

Larry Rossin, a board member of the Save Darfur Coalition and a former U.N. official told Sudan Tribune that “pressure by civil society is just as important as diplomatic pressure by officials such as Natsios in bringing peace to Darfur”.

Rossin was responding to statements made by the US presidential envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios to the Boston Herald in which he said that efforts by Darfur activists such as Save Darfur coalition were “more useful eight to 12 months ago” but are now outdated.

Natsios also suggested that the campaign by Darfur activists saying it may hurt behind the scenes diplomatic efforts that are finally bearing fruit.

However Rossin said he is not sure how work by Save Darfur coalition could have a negative impact on diplomatic efforts underway.

Eric Reeves, an American academic and long time expert on Sudan condemned Natsios’s remarks in unusually strong terms describing him as “an arrogant fool, evidently intent on blaming advocacy groups for the failure of the Bush administration to make policy sense of its genocide determination”.

GoSS

South Sudan vice president meets SLM leader in Paris

(Khartoum Monitor) The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Riek Machar, arrived in Paris, France on Sunday Morning to hold talk with the rebel SLM/SLA Chairman Abdel Wahid Mohamed Ahmed al-Nur.

According to Sudan Tribune information, Machar has met al-Nur but no details are available about the meeting. The Southern Sudan Vice President cancelled a press conference scheduled this morning in Paris at the last minute.

The SPLM undertaking contacts with the SLM rebel leader to persuade him to join the peace talks mediated by the United Nations and the African Union. Nonetheless Nur wants Khartoum commitment to stop violence and the deployment of the international force to ensure protection of Darfur civilians.

Amum Denies that Northern traders threatened in South

(The Citizen) SPLM Secretary General yesterday dismissed allegations that traders from Northern Sudan are threatened in Southern Sudan. Pagan Amum also said Northern

traders should go and compete in the South. Amum was speaking in the second session of the private sector forum in Khartoum.

GoSS World Bank holds training in procurement

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Southern Sudan government and World Bank organize a five-day training in procurement for GoSS officials to ameliorate the management of public funds, the World Bank said.

Some 80 officials invited from various government institutions and parastatal bodies began a five-day training in procurement on Monday September 10. The workshop is jointly organized by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and the World Bank administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Southern Sudan (MDTF-S).