

19 September 2008

[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- British official denies plans to freeze ICC indictment of Sudan's Bashir (*Sudan Tribune*)
- France will veto any resolution deferring Sudan president indictment (*Sudan Tribune*)
- Algiers denies it would ask UN to delay Sudan war crimes probe (*AFP*)
- Rebels report new attacks in North Darfur (*Sudan Tribune*)
- UNAMID attempting to mediate at Darfur Zamzam, Kalma camps (*Sudan Tribune*)
- Ugandan rebels kill two people in fresh Sudan's Equatoria attack (*Sudan Tribune*)
- Three million mosquito nets to be distributed across southern Sudan (*Radio Miraya*)
- UN launches health care books in southern state (*Radio Miraya*)
- Sudanese vice-president to meet former rebel leader in Darfur (*Akhir Lahzah*)
- River transport workers threaten to strike 24 September (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Chad denies meeting to be held between Presidents Deby and Al-Bashir (*Al-Sharq al-Awsat*)
- Sudan blames UN for peacekeeper delays (*Reuters*)

**NOTE:** Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

# Highlights

## **British official denies plans to freeze ICC indictment of Sudan's Bashir**

*Sudan Tribune* (18/9/08) The UK has no plans of supporting suspension of the ICC indictment of Sudan's President Al-Bashir, a senior British official has said. Commenting on "a rather inaccurate press story", Foreign Office Minister for Africa Lord Malloch Brown told a forum at London's Frontline Club yesterday that he thought suspension "a very bad idea".

"We are extremely wary of doing anything to interfere with the independence of the ICC. We look at it as one of the most important international innovation of recent years", Lord Malloch Brown said. He stressed that he had told Sudan "there is no bargaining", adding that London "cannot sell out the International Court or the justice system". It was up to the Sudan to convince the Security Council that was undertaking a "fundamental change...in addressing the internal issues of justice, politics, peacekeeping, but we have not seen that", he added.

"If you showed willingness to really engage with the other two people who had been indicted who are still enjoying senior government jobs; if you now turned around and helped get UNAMID fully deployed and if you also engaged in a no-holds-barred effort for a peace agreement with the rebel groups, then you would face a completely different environment in the UN Security Council" he added.

According to Brown, said that on the issues of the two Sudanese suspects indicted by the ICC previously, the UNSC has been held "hostage" to Sudan wanting to see UNAMID force deployed and political negotiations between the government and rebels. He acknowledged that Al-Bashir's indictment was not supported by African leaders who saw the ICC as an "intrusion [by a] Western institution into Africa's affairs where you can start indicting African leaders while in office."

"They [African leaders] say who is next? It is not that they think Bashir is not guilty of things. But they could imagine circumstances that some smooth well spoken opposition leader fooling Westerners into thinking that they were human right abusers right or wrong and then suddenly there was an indictment against them".

## **France will veto any resolution deferring Sudan president indictment**

September 18, 2008 (NEW YORK) – France will block any resolution introduced seeking to suspend the ICC indictment of Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, the French Ambassador to the UN Jean-Maurice Ripert told reporters in New York today. "I cannot reiterate [further] the constant position of France. For the moment the question is not raised. If the question is raised tomorrow the stance of the French delegation would be very clear. We will oppose any intention by anyone to raise Article 16 relating to the situation in Darfur."

Ambassador Ripert also rejected suggestions that France changed its position on the issue. "We will oppose for the moment any kind of request for using Article 16. This is very clear and there is absolutely no misunderstanding on that. I think the Sudanese authorities are very

clear on where we stand” he said.

Yesterday the French envoy listed a set of conditions after which his government may support invoking Article 16. “We had extensive meetings with representatives of the African Union (AU) and I think we are passing the same kind of messages [to Sudan] which are: stop the killings, stop the military action in Darfur...Do what you can do to alleviate the human suffering and improve the humanitarian access to Darfur...increase and improve the capacity of the authorities to participate in a political dialogue with all political forces....improve your relationship with Chad.”

However the French envoy stressed that Sudan “has to cooperate with the ICC”.

If Sudan meets the conditions set forth, then the UNSC “will review” the situation. Because the issue of Bashir’s indictment is still pending, now is not the time to discuss the matter. “The ICC is an independent body. We believe in the freedom of justice and the rule of law. The ICC has to decide what it wants to do vis-à-vis Sudan” the French official said.

### **Algiers denies it would ask UN to delay Sudan war crimes probe**

ALGIERS (*AFP*) - Algeria yesterday denied reports it and Khartoum may ask the United Nations to suspend war crimes proceedings against Sudan's leader, instead saying the African Union was mulling such a move. Remarks by Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci on national radio Wednesday in no way suggested "that Algeria would seize the UN Security Council" on the matter, MFA spokesman Mehdi Nedjib told AFP. "Besides, neither Algeria nor Sudan are even members of the council," he added.

FM Medelci said on radio that several months of discussions between Khartoum and Algiers "go in two directions" -- including to ask the Security Council to freeze "very unfortunate" war crimes charges sought by the ICC's chief prosecutor against President al-Beshir. "Mr. Medelci never said this," the spokesman said. Rather, he said, conversations between the two countries concerned a possible African Union initiative to do so.

### **Rebels report new attacks in North Darfur**

September 18, 2008 (ALFASHER) — Darfur rebels said they clashed with Sudanese troops in Northern Darfur yesterday evening, killing 21 soldiers. According to Suleiman Marjan, commander of the SLA-Abdel Wahid Al-Nur forces in northern Darfur, SAF troops attacked SLM/A Al Nur positions in Helf, 122 klm northern Al-Fasher on Wednesday. Marjan said the attackers who came in 55 vehicles had to withdraw quickly to Malit due to the heavy fire from the rebels. He added that they destroyed six vehicles. (*ST*)

### **UNAMID attempting to mediate at Darfur Zamzam, Kalma camps**

September 18, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur is stepping up efforts to avoid bloodshed at Zamzam IDP camp, where allegedly five people were shot and two abducted by Sudanese police forces on Sept. 10.

With tensions running high between the Sudan Liberation Army faction of Minni Minawi (SLA/M), whose forces control the camp, and the Government of Sudan (GoS), UNAMID police advisors held separate meetings with officials from each group Sept. 15 and 16 in Zamzam. The purpose “was to avert a possible clash” at the camp, according to an UNAMID statement. Government forces had indicated that they intended to flush out “illegal armed operatives and other criminal activities in the camp,” said UNAMID.

Government officials announced a similar search for weapons caches at Kalma camp in South Darfur in late August, leading to an attack Aug. 25 that killed an estimated 30 people and wounded at least 65. The camp was also raided in Oct. 2007, leading to a confrontation between government and SLA-Minawi forces.

Minawi dismissed government claims about weapons in Kalma camp in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* Aug. 27. “These are civilian camps. The people who were killed are civilians; innocent children, women and elders. Clearly they cannot be fighters.” Minawi also criticized UNAMID for being “absent.”

In South Darfur, UNAMID made a diplomatic effort in Kalma camp on Tuesday, following up discussions that had taken place between IDP leaders and Principal Deputy Joint Special Representative Henry Anyidoho. The delegation was headed by the mission’s Chief of Civil Affairs Wariara Mbugua, who was accompanied by Acting Head of Office Ali Hassan and humanitarian liaison officers.

Meanwhile, two armed men broke into an international aid agency’s compound nearby in Safia area south of Nyala town, injuring a guard and stealing two cars, according to UNAMID. (*ST*)

### **Ugandan rebels kill two people in fresh Sudan’s Equatoria attack**

September 18, 2008 (SAKURE) — Ugandan rebels early this morning attacked a border village of Sakure sub-county between Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

“About one hundred LRA rebels made a surprise attack Thursday morning on the SPLA military barracks in Sakure Payam,” said state Minister of Information and Communications Col. Joseph Ngere. He was speaking to the press after reports from a team that the Western Equatoria State government dispatched to the area the morning of Sept. 18. “One SPLA soldier was killed and a 4-year-old child was killed too.” Moreover, according to Ngere, households had been burnt down by “LRA bandits, leaving the area dilapidated.”

Sakure is about 30 km (19 miles) from Yambio and 42 km (26 miles) from Nzara the county seat. The unexpected attack at a time when the LRA had reportedly pledged to sign a deal left little reason “for negotiation and wasting of resources for the LRA deadlocked peace deal”, Ngere argued. Higher-level elements in GoSS continue to engage LRA for a peace settlement. Unconfirmed reports from Juba indicate that the Sudanese delegation, headed by chief mediator Riek Machar, will head to Nabanga on 19 September to sign a final deal with LRA.

Sources close to Western Equatoria State Governor’s office say Machar made several visits to Nabanga without informing them. As a result, Governor Jemma Nunu Kumba had to urge mediators to keep the state in the picture. Kumba complained that the state has to depend on radio to hear news about the LRA peace talks, even though the area has hosted LRA fighters since 2006, an arrangement many citizens opposed.

Ngere told reporters that the GoSS peaceful approach notwithstanding, the Western Equatoria government would defend itself and its citizens effectively “should great havoc continue.” SPLA reinforcements are reportedly en route to Sakure. (*ST*)

### **Three million mosquito nets to be distributed across southern Sudan**

**Radio Miraya FM website** (18/9/08) Juba - The GoSS health ministry confirmed that three million mosquito nets are to be distributed across southern Sudan as part of the efforts to fight malaria. Director of Preventive Medicine John Rumunu said that during the first implementation phase, one million nets have already been distributed in Warap and Western Bahr al-Ghazal states. Dr Rumunu said that Ministry of Health and its implementing partner- the Population Service International (PSI) - aim at distributing long lasting treated mosquito nets in the whole south Sudan in three years.

Distribution of mosquito nets is currently taking place in Western Equatoria State, he said. So far, a multi-donor trust fund has provided some \$9 million to the programme.

### **UN launches health care books in southern state**

**Radio Miraya FM website**, (18/9/08) Juba -- The UN Population Fund's health project has launched three reproductive health care books on postpartum, managing new-born problems, and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. At a ceremony in Rumbek's Bros Centre, UNFPA Reproductive Health Care Field Coordinator Magdalene Armah noted that the maternal mortality rate is very high in southern Sudan. In promoting the theme that "No woman should die in child birth", the centre and UNFPA have launched a month-long training course for health care providers covering emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. Dr Henry Makeny, Health Ministry director general in Rumbek, urged participants to use the books and the training they received to raise awareness of the issues among their fellow health workers.

### **Sudanese vice-president to meet former rebel leader in Darfur**

**Akhir Lahzah** (18/9/08) -- Prominent SLM members say Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha will meet with SLM leader Minni Arkoi Minawi tomorrow (Friday) in Al-Fashir. According to the SLM sources, the meeting would be limited to discussing obstacles facing the Abuja Agreement and mechanisms for its implementation and efforts to speed up Minawi's return to his presidential palace duties. SLM members said they had met with Taha and the head of the National Intelligence and Security Services chief Salah Abdallah Gosh to discuss Minawi's return and obstacles facing the agreement and its implementation.

### **River transport workers threaten to strike 24 September**

**Al-Ayyam** (18/9/08) -- The General Union of River Transport Workers has threatened to strike on 24 September in Khartoum Bahri [Khartoum North], Kosti, Karimah, Malakal and Juba and to suspend all its barge and vessel activities in Kosti and Juba.

In a statement yesterday, the union disputed the terms of transfer for 44 workers and their families sent mid-Ramadan by the River Nile Transport Company to Kosti.

### **Chad denies meeting to be held between Presidents Deby and Al-Bashir**

**Al-Sharq al-Awsat website** (18/9/08) -- Chadian Information Minister and Government Spokesman Mohamed Hussein has told the **Al-Sharq al-Awsat** newspaper that his government has monitored troop concentrations and training camps in Sudan intended for use against N'djamena. He said Chad was concerned about these dangerous developments coming so soon after the Asmara Agreement. The spokesman denied that a meeting is being arranged between Chadian President Idris Deby and Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir. Meanwhile, an Eritrean delegation is to visit Khartoum and N'djamena to start implementation of the Asmara-Dakar agreement.

Hussein explained: "our fear is based on the fact that after we conclude an agreement with Sudan. Khartoum launches a new attack on us.

However, we hope that the Sudanese government will cooperate with us in goodwill and truthfulness, all the more so because we are ready for normalization."

### **Sudan blames UN for peacekeeper delays**

(19/9/08) (*Reuters*)-- Sudan's UN envoy said on Friday the fault for any delays in deploying peacekeepers to the country's war-ravaged Darfur region lies with the United Nations and not the Khartoum government. Yesterday, the UN's new head of peacekeeping operations, Alain Le Roy of France, said he did not expect the UN to meet its target of getting 80% of the planned full deployment of 26,000 UNAMID peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur by the end of the year. Le Roy said he expected only half of UNAMID's 26,000 strength would be on the ground by the year's end.

A "lack of clarity" on the part of the Sudanese authorities had delayed the arrival of the Thai and Nepalese units, he said. US Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad said the deployment target would probably not be reached until March 2009.

Sudan's Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem rejected the idea that Khartoum was at all responsible for delays in deploying UNAMID. His government was doing all in its power to ensure that the UN target was met, he said. "If there are delays, it's because of the United Nations." Abdalhaleem hoped Le Roy would create better ties with the Sudanese government than his predecessor (Jean-Marie Guehenno), whom he described as "confrontational".

UN officials acknowledge that obstacles created by Khartoum are not the only reason for the deployment delays. Other reasons include the logistics of deployment, the vast length of supply lines for an area roughly the size of France, and increased banditry and worsening security. But they disputed Abdalhaleem's statement that Khartoum was doing everything in its power to get the UN peacekeeping force deployed.

---

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)

---

### ***United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office***

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200