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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

UN committed to implement DDR

Al-Intibaha reports UN has reaffirmed its commitment to implement DDR in the Blue Nile State where armed groups will be gathered, disarmed and reintegrated. It commended the cooperation of the State Government and its keenness to make the project a model for the Blue Nile and Abyei area.

That was discussed at a meeting recently between the Blue Nile State's governor Ahmed Karamano and DDR delegation led by the country director Adrian Fowler in presence of Commissioner of Gissan.

Ceasefire Commission Meeting postponed until after Eid

Sudan Vision reports CPC met yesterday, Presidency's State Minister Idris Muhammad Abd-al-Qadir, SRSG Ashraf Qazi and representatives of the GoNU and GoSS attended.

The meeting put off consideration of report of the CJMC pending completion. CPC will resume after Eid holidays.

EU condemns SAF operations in Darfur

Ray Al-Shaab reports EU on Tuesday condemned Sudanese use of white-painted planes in Darfur and has called for immediate cessation of these operations.

SMC reports Government criticized the EU statement yesterday as biased. Khartoum said the operations were intended to secure humanitarian assistance to needy population in the region and to target outlaws and bandits.

Sarkozy wants Ahmed Haroun suspended, not handed over – Taha

Al-Sahafa reports Sudan delegation to UNGA, led by VP Taha, is lobbying to block issuance of arrest warrant for President Bashir. According to Taha, French President Sarkozy as a condition for deferring the ICC indictment process is now asking for suspension of Ahmed Haroun rather instead of handing him over.

Akhir Lahza reports Taha will address UNGA today, and that the Sudan government expects UN support for its efforts to halt ICC indictment of Sudanese officials.

Al-Ahdath reports US has promised to fund transportation of UNAMID troops from Egypt, Ethiopia and Rwanda as well as to put pressure on Darfur armed movements to come to the negotiation table.

7 killed, 30 wounded in Darfur

Ajras Al-Hurria reports seven persons were killed and three others injured yesterday in the area of Diso, 30 Km southeast Buram Locality, South Darfur.

A source told the paper that an unidentified armed group stole 200 cattle and that five of a group of residents who were chasing the robbers were killed. Two of the raiders died and three

were wounded.

SPLA amassing troops

Al-Wifaq reports SPLA mobilized two armoured companies in Gana and Renk area this month, backed by artillery and anti-aircraft guns. SPLA also engaged in an activity in Wau and in areas under the control of SLM-Abdul Wahid Nur. These movements coincided with statements attributed to SPLM to the effect that South Sudan's border in this area lies north of Kenana, Debat Al-Fakhar and Renk.

Websites/International News Coverage

UN rights body renews mandate of Sudan rapporteur for 6 months (ST)

September 24 2008 (GENEVA) — The United Nations Human Rights Council has renewed the mandate of its Special Rapporteur Sima Samar on the situation of human rights in Sudan for six months.

The six-month renewal stems from a compromise sponsored by the AU and EU groups.

Council's President, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibi, welcomed the consensus decision as "a very important message from the international community of their understanding of the situation in that country."

"The idea is not to be punitive. The idea is to encourage. It is meant to do what is needed in the interest of human rights and the rights of all citizens." Uhomoibi said.

UNAMID holds workshop with Sudanese security forces (ST)

September 24, 2008 (ELFASHER) —UNAMID reported on Tuesday that it conducted a training workshop on security coordination for senior-and medium-level officers from the GoS Police, National Security and Military Intelligence forces.

The one-day workshop at police headquarters in El Fasher sought to inform the officers on the mission's mandate, the Status of Forces Agreement, the host government's responsibilities and the workings of the UN's security management system.

UNAMID Principal Deputy Joint Special Representative Henry Anyidoho noted that primary responsibility for the security and protection of UN staff members and property rests with Sudan, the host government.

North Darfur police chief, General Ahmad Atta Al Manan Osman, welcomed the UNAMID initiative. He also spoke about traffic accidents involving UNAMID staff. He urged the mission to find a way to compensate those affected and suggested that insurance companies contracted by UNAMID open offices in Darfur.

IDP representatives from Abu Shouk and El-Salam camps in North Darfur met with PDJSR Anyidoho on Sunday to complain about insecurity for residents of the camps.

US will veto attempts to defer ICC move against Sudan president (ST)

September 24, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The United States will veto any Security Council resolution that defers the ICC indictment of Sudanese President Al-Bashir and other officials, a

senior U.S. official said today.

“If asked—if forced to vote today—the United States, even if it was 191 countries against one, would veto an Article 16 [resolution],” Ambassador Richard Williamson, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan said at a hearing of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Williamson stopped short of saying that the U.S. would never support suspension of the ICC’s Darfur cases. Instead he listed conditions that should be met before such a move would be tolerable, including “progress on the ground” to alleviate humanitarian suffering and “sustainable security on the ground in Darfur and South Sudan.”

“We have not seen a response by the officials in Sudan to approach the sort of meaningful steps in those areas that are noteworthy,” said Williamson.

Sudan retracts to claim that tourists’ kidnappers are Egyptians (ST)

September 24, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese government reversed its earlier claim on the identity of the individuals who kidnapped 11 Europeans tourists near the borders.

Yesterday Ali Youssef head of protocol division at the Sudanese Foreign ministry told Sudan official News Agency (SUNA) that “all the kidnappers are Egyptians”.

However, today the Sudanese official said that the nationalities of the kidnappers “remain unknown”.

Egypt on the other hand insists that kidnappers consist of 3 Sudanese and a Chadian national.

Meanwhile Sudanese forces have closed on the area where the tourists and the Egyptian are being taken hostages.

Sudanese officials emphasized that there is no intention of engaging with the kidnappers “to preserve the lives of the hostages”.

The daily Al-Hayat newspaper quoting unidentified sources as saying that the German government has initiated contact with the kidnappers who reportedly asked for \$15 million as ransom.

Ghana will not arrest Sudan president even if warrant issued (ST)

September 24, 2008 (ACCRA) – Ghana has no intention of arresting President Al-Bashir even if the judges of the ICC issue an arrest warrant for him, an unidentified Ghanaian official said today.

Al-Bashir flies to Accra next week to participate in the Sixth Summit of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group).

Ghana is a member of the ICC making it legally bound to apprehend Al-Bashir if the Judges endorse the charges brought forward by the prosecutor.

EU envoy visits Juba to assess Sudan's peace implementation (ST)

September 24, 2008 (JUBA) – A high level EU delegation led by the EU Special Representative for Sudan visited Juba on Wednesday for an update on progress achieved and difficulties still faced in the implementation of the CPA.

The visiting delegation was briefed by the GOSS VP, Riek Machar, co-chair of the Joint Political Executive Committee on CPA implementation.

Machar indicated issues to be resolved in the next Khartoum meeting would include repeal of security and media laws that are not compatible with the CPA and policies on Central Bank of Sudan, Civil Aviation, River Transport, Social Security Fund, Pension Fund and the way forward in the Darfur peace process, among others.

On the issue of Central Bank, the SPLM Deputy Chairperson said: "Instruments used for measuring Islamic economy are different from instruments for measuring conventional economy," Machar explained, referring to monetary policies and interest rates.

He said the nominated head of the Electoral Commission would be confirmed in mid-October by the National Assembly in Khartoum with its appointment by the President of the Republic to follow. The Commission would kick off its "complex" work from there.

He allowed that this might delay elections, pointing out that the Commission would have to organize and establish branches throughout the country. In addition, there was need for voter education, particularly in the South where elections would be more complex with 12 votes required per a voter.

There was a need for consultations with various political parties in the country, mainly between the SPLM and NCP, in order to agree on the date for elections, he said.

The EU delegation will remain in Juba for five days.

21 Eritrean, Somali refugees feared dead in Sudan River crossing (ST)

September 24, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — UNHCR says 21 refugees are feared dead after their overloaded boat capsized while attempting to cross a river and enter eastern Sudan.

The refugees were part of a larger group that tried at 01:30 local time to cross the Atbara River – which is near the Shagarab refugee camp in eastern Sudan – in four boats. One of the four boats, which are meant to carry a maximum of 15 people, was packed with 26 and capsized. The bodies have yet to be recovered.

Local administration and security officials, along with UNHCR and its Sudanese government counterpart, COR, rushed to the scene.

One male survivor said he and several others were offered the trip across the river and onward to Khartoum by road for a fee of about US \$100 each. Two suspected smugglers, also refugees, are now in police custody.

According to UNHCR the boat crossing was meant to bypass road blocks outside the camp.

UNHCR estimates the number of refugees in eastern Sudan to be around 130,000. They originate mostly from Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Close to 100,000 live in 12 camps where they receive international assistance while an estimated 40,000 live in rural and urban concentrations.

South African peacekeeper dies after sting by scorpion (ST)

September 24, 2008 (AL FASHER) – A South African peacekeeper serving with UNAMID has died after being stung by a scorpion in the arid region of western Sudan.

The body of Losedi Boitumelo Monaisa, 21 years was flown home yesterday after a solemn farewell ceremony organized in her honour by her colleagues.

Political turmoil in Lakes State over fate of parliament speaker (ST)

September 24, 2008 (RUMBEK) — Lakes State witnessed a disturbing day after a contradictory statements issued about the removal of the speaker of the local parliament, who, since last year has been leading efforts to impeach the state finance minister.

According to reports reaching the Sudan Tribune from a number of sources, there is an open power struggle in Rumbek between the executive and the legislative powers in the state. Reportedly, lawmakers have even beaten each other.

On August 21, 2007, the Lakes State Legislative Assembly had impeached the state minister of finance following a parliamentary probe on the mismanagement of public funds.

But following a request by the Governor Akot, the president of the government of Southern Sudan maintained the minister overlooking the decision of the state parliament.

Security Council defers decision on UN troops for Chad, CAR

24 September (UN News) - The Security Council has today put off until December a decision on the size of a military component to the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad, for which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has proposed 6,000 troops.

The military addition to the mission, known as MINURCAT, is to replace a European Union force (EUFOR). Both Chad and CAR have been hit by rebel activity and a spill-over from neighbouring Sudan's Darfur conflict.

The 15-member Council unanimously extended MINURCAT's mandate until 15 March 2009 and expressed its intention to authorize the deployment of a military component, "taking fully into account" Mr. Ban's recommendations.

Eastern Chad currently shelters 290,000 refugees, mainly Sudanese escaping from the Darfur fighting, and 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who depend on humanitarian aid to survive.

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