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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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

Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

High-ranking ruling party official killed in Kadugli

One of the high-ranking leaders of the Popular Defense Forces [PDF] and the National Congress Party in Kadugli town, in Southern Kordofan, has been brutally assassinated by unknown gunmen, according to a report in **Akhir Lahza**.

The security committee in Southern Kordofan State announced that Ahmad Adam Ahmad, (nicknamed "Himiti"), was killed Friday morning, 3km south east of Kadugli, by unknown gunmen who opened fire on him while he was driving his motorcycle.

Following the announcement of the prominent PDF leaders' death, thousands of citizens gathered at Kadugli hospital calling for the resignation of the governor. PCP leaders demanded the state government arrest the perpetrators within 24 hours or else they would take matters into their own hands.

Gressely: UN ready to assist demobilization of ex combatants

Al-Sudani reports UN Southern Sudan's Regional Coordinator, David Gressely, said DDR for Sudanese ex-combatants need to be better between CPA partners. He told press in Juba that the UN was ready to help demobilize 180,000 SAF and SPLA combatants. Also, Gressely said UN would contribute \$ 40,000 for de-mining in southern Sudan expected to begin in October.

Donors roundtable in Juba

Al-Sudani reports the South Sudan DDR Commission has stated preparations for a donors' roundtable conference in Juba on 26 October. The conference is intended to urge EU and UN donors to support the programme in southern Sudan.

Commission Chairman, Deng Deng, said the conference would discuss donors' pledges made in Geneva and decisions of the DDR Coordination Council, which recently met in Khartoum. He said the DDR process was underway but cited lack of funding from donors and friendly countries. The Juba conference is to be held so that donors can see for themselves the situation of demobilized combatants in southern Sudan, he added.

SPLM requests EU's assistance for elections

Al-Ahdath reports SPLM has reiterated criticism of NCP accusing it of abusing the country's resources on activities against unarmed civilians. In a press release, SPLM reportedly said the NCP was implementing the CPA in a selective manner at a time when the country was transforming from war to peace, from totalitarianism and dictatorship to multi-party democracy.

SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum, meeting with EU representative in Juba on Friday, said the country was encountering challenges, citing Darfur and upcoming elections. SPLM position is that elections take place on schedule including in Darfur, he said. He has urged EU's support for elections to achieve desired democratic transformation.

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In a press release, Amum stressed the need for the NCP to cooperate with ICC.

President Bashir condemns attack on Syria, calls for fight against terror

Rai Al-Aam reports President Bashir yesterday phoned his Syrian counterpart Bashaar Assad to express his condolences for the victims of what he has called "criminal and unacceptable" act. He Sudan condemns terrorism and he urged on the international community to fight it.

VP Taha continues meetings in NY

Al-Sahafa reports VP Taha continuing consultations in NY included meeting with the British and Russian Foreign Ministers who affirmed their support for Khartoum's efforts to resolve the Darfur issue. Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem said Taha's meetings focused on Darfur and ICC.

Messeriya and Rizeigat reconciled

Al-Sahafa reports the Messeriya and the Rizeigat tribes, after meeting for two days in Al-Obeid, have reached a reconciliation agreement calling for demarcation of the borders between South Darfur and South Kordofan States. They also agreed that recent incidents between them would be settled amicably. The meeting was mediated by National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir.

Sudan to chair Group of 77

Sudan Vision reports that the Sudan government has welcomed the election of Sudan to chair the Group of 77 plus China. NCP Secretary, Dr. Qutbi Al-Mahi, said the elections reflected the international community's confidence in Sudan as a state and in its leadership.

International body rejects ICC move against Sudan

Sudan News Agency (**SUNA**) reports the OIC has affirmed its solidarity with Sudan and its rejection of the ICC Prosecutor's allegations against the Sudanese leadership. In its meeting Friday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the OIC ministerial meeting called for full cancellation of the ICC Prosecutor's move, noting that the ICC move would undermine the peace process in Sudan and stability at the region.

Websites/International News Coverage

At least 69 children dead in Sudan food crisis - UN

By Andrew Heavens

KHARTOUM, Sept 25 (**Reuters**) - At least 69 children have died from malnutrition and sickness after floods washed away crops in isolated villages in southeast Sudan in recent weeks, U.N. agencies said on Thursday.

Blocked roads and a lack of air transport are preventing the supply of emergency rations to parts of the region, the agencies added.

Aid workers fear for villagers in the Kurmuk region of Blue Nile state, where thousands of former refugees have returned home in the past few months after years of exile across the border in Ethiopia. Some remote villages unreachable by aid workers are at increased risk, the agencies said.

The UNHCR said villagers in the region had used up six months of emergency food given to them when they arrived in Bellila and nearby villages earlier this year.

"There is now a food crisis," an agency spokeswoman said. "The harvest was bad and food prices in the market are very high. The seeds that were in the field have also been washed away by floods."

The World Food Programme said it has a month's worth of emergency food for the region, but floods had blocked roads and it has not yet obtained air transport to supply the aid.

Villagers who fled more than two decades of north-south civil war in Sudan have been slowly returning to the area after a 2005 peace deal, but three years on and the region has seen little development.

A report from the U.N.'s mission in Sudan, seen by Reuters, said the World Health Organization sent a team to Bellila this month to set up a health clinic and to assess the situation.

"The findings were alarming. The returnee community had finished their six-month food ration some months ago and did not have sufficient food ever since," the U.N. report said.

The report said 48 children died in the village of Gindi and another 21 in Borfa in August and September, all of them aged one to six. They died from malnutrition, diarrhea and malaria.

Almost half of the 1,200 villagers needed medical treatment, a situation likely to be similar in other remote areas of Kurmuk, the report said.

Sudan, in the midst of its annual rainy season, has been hit by a series of floods in recent weeks, but the U.N.'s refugee agency said the needs were particularly acute in Blue Nile because of the remoteness of the villagers.

Villagers were also in a particularly vulnerable condition having just returned after years in refugee camps, it added.

SPLM denies links to weapons ship hijacked off Somalia

(Sudan Tribune) – SPLA dismissed any connection with a Ukrainian ship loaded with tanks and ammunition that was hijacked off Somalia's coasts on Thursday. The ship is believed to be carrying 33 Russian-built T-72 tanks and a substantial quantity of ammunition and spare parts.

Some reports suggested that the cargo had been destined for South Sudan semi-autonomous government, but Kenyan officials denied that and said that they were the recipients of the shipment.

SPLA Major General Byor Ajang told the daily **Al-Sahafa** that GoSS did not order any new weapons. "The SPLA did not have Russian weapons shipments that were on its way here through Kenya" Ajang said. "We did not sign a contract to buy Russian tanks" he added.

Tourist-kidnappers are back in Sudan - official

(Sudan Tribune) — Kidnappers holding 11 European tourists and eight Egyptians are back in Sudan after crossing the Libyan border, the Sudanese foreign ministry said Friday. According to Libyan officials speaking the same day, an extensive search for the hostages showed they were not on Libyan soil. On Thursday Sudan said the group had crossed into the neighbouring

country.

Head of Protocol Ali Yousuf said yesterday that the Sudanese security service had detected the return of hostage-takers inside Sudan. He added that the group appeared to be on its way to Egypt from eastern Jebel Oweinat, a mountain near the Sudan-Egypt border.

Five Germans, five Italians, a Romanian and eight Egyptians are kidnapped since last Friday while they were on a desert safari through the far southwest of Egypt. They had been in Sudan for the first time since last Tuesday. The Sudanese official said the hostages appear in good health.

