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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

Al-Rai Al-Aam publishes text of confidential correspondences between Ocampo and Guehenno

(**Summary**) UNMIS held a series of meetings for discussion on confidential correspondences exchanged between Ocampo and DPKO USG reported by the paper last Monday. The paper tried to find out from UNMIS officials whether its mandate includes gathering information relating to claims of crimes in Darfur and whether there is coordination or conflict between SOFA and the agreement between UN and the ICC? It seems more time is needed to get the answers from UNMIS officials.

An UNMIS source who spoke on condition of anonymity told the paper that UNMIS sends its reports to UN in NY not to any other quarter. The source explains that to carry out its activities, the Mission can cooperate with UN Agencies operating in Sudan but it does not deal directly with other bodies. The source added UNMIS role is to assist NCP and SPLM to implement the CPA including to maintain security and stability, conduct elections, border demarcation, DDR, IDP returns and democratic transformation. With regard to Darfur, UNMIS mandate is to cooperate with UNAMID.

On sending confidential reports to the ICC, the source said such dealing might have been personal, between Jean Marie Guehenno and the ICC but there is no evidence that UNMIS has dealt with the ICC.

UNMIS PIO Director Khaled Mansour did not deny or confirm the paper's information. "We are now studying the Mission's document and we can not comment before we have finished," he said. Khaled expects the Mission to issue statement after sufficient information is obtained.

The ICC Prosecutor's letter to Guehenno is dated 8 June 2005. "I am now writing to you to seek your cooperation in providing my Office access to documents and information held by the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Such access will be important in the investigation of crimes allegedly committed in Darfur," Ocampo's letter says.

Guehenno's reply to Ocampo's letter dated 22 June 2005. "I refer your letter to Michel the legal counsel and Veness, USG for Safety and Security", says Guehenno's reply.

According to Guehenno's response, the ICC Prosecutor's Office asked to access the following information:

1. Human rights reports.
2. Reports of security incidents in Darfur.
3. Reports of relevant UNMIS sections/units:
 - a) Old and new incidents in Darfur that may have involved commission of international crimes especially since the issuance of report of International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur.
 - b) Concrete steps which the Sudanese authorities may have taken or are taking to investigate or prosecute such crimes or the absence of such steps.

4. UNMIS situation reports.
5. CPA implementation political analysis.

"I am pleased to inform you that UN is ready to provide your Office access to copies of documents that may be held by UNMIS," the letter says. Guehenno's letter says the information and documents, being so highly sensitive should not be made available to a third party, including other organs within the ICC, without prior approval of the UN.

Guehenno's letter concludes by saying: "I shall be grateful, as you have mentioned in your letter, that your office will reply in writing and I hope the said arrangements are acceptable to you. Only after that I will be able to ask the SRSR in Sudan to go ahead to provide your office with the desired documents".

(The newspaper indicates that it will continue releasing more information about some bodies that cooperate with Ocampo from within Sudan)

Government demands UN to return reimbursed DDR funds

Sudan Vision reports Sudanese government asked UN to return "reimbursed DDR funds". It also asked UN not to cut the DDR budgets for 2008. High committee for resolving obstacles hindering CPA implementation in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States urged donor countries to fulfill their pledges declared in Geneva last May.

National DDR Coordination Council Executive Secretary, Brigadier Osman Nuri, told the paper that the joint DDR programme office in Blue Nile Area was launched and that Southern Kordofan office would be opened shortly. Nuri said the amounts for the rest of the year were estimated to be US\$53 million for the two states including administration, offices, and integration entitlements. UNDDR office participated in the launch and affirmed commitment to contribute funds for implementation.

Nafie warns of ICC negative signals

Sudan Vision reports Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie has warned that any negative signals by the ICC would definitely affect the positive atmosphere in the Sudan. Nafie made the statements after meeting yesterday with British envoy for Sudan, Michael O'Neill, in Khartoum.

Parliamentarians reject Presidential nominees for Parties Council

The Citizen reports political parties yesterday rejected nine nominees submitted by the Presidency for Parties Council membership. The nominees' names were submitted to the National Assembly's Legislation and Justice Committee for approval. SPLM called on the Presidency to provide full records of the nine members chosen for the Parties Council.

Public prosecutor to visit South Darfur to follow Kalma investigation

Akhbar Al Yom reports Sudanese Public Prosecutor Abu Zaid is to visit South Darfur to follow investigations in recent incidents occurred at Kalma IDP camp. Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat declined to elaborate about the visit.

\$370.65 m GoSS share of oil revenue in August

Al-Intibaha reports Finance Ministry Undersecretary El Tayeb Mustafa as saying Sudan's oil

revenues for August reached \$778.55 millions - National Government's share is \$407.9 and GoSS share is \$ 340.65 millions.

SPLA rearming violates CPA – NCP official

Al-Intibaha reports NCP official Amin Hassan Omer said ongoing SPLM rearming violates the CPA. Amin also confirmed differences between CPA partners.

Authorities halt six NGO projects in Darfur

SMC reports HAC Acting Commissioner for NGOs affairs Mohammed Fadallah said concerned authorities have undertaken legal proceedings to halt six projects endorsed for implementation by some INGOs in Darfur. He said his commission noted that the NGOs' activities are inconsistent with humanitarian laws, adding some NGOs have exploited the situation to prolong conflict in Darfur.

South Darfur Criminal Court to Try Suspects Next week

SMC reports South Darfur state criminal court is to consider next week a number of major cases related to war crimes, robbery, illegal arms possession and drugs trafficking.

Website/International News Coverage

Oil price drop may force Sudan to tighten belts: Officials

October 21, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – Sudan is considering new fiscal measures in lights of the continued drop in oil prices, a newspaper reported today.

The independent Al-Sudani newspaper quoting sources at the finance ministry said that Khartoum established a committee to evaluate the economic situation and come up with recommendations to prevent a possible crisis.

The committee is contemplating an “exceptional budget” for 2009 that will likely cut down on expenditure and focuses on new revenue opportunities besides petroleum industry.

Furthermore the government will scrutinize adherence to the budget for the remaining months of 2008.

The Sudanese finance and national economy minister Awad Al-Jaz has reportedly met with heads of government owned companies to discuss ways of boosting revenue and make up for shortfall in oil prices.

Many Sudanese economists have warned that government spending is getting out of control leading to a rise in inflation rates.

However the global financial crisis has led investors to believe that oil demand will be severely curtailed in developed nations and possible China and India. Crude oil is down 52 percent from its all-time peak of \$147.27 reached July 11. (ST)

Darfur IDP's say attacked by infiltrators following protests

October 21, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – One Darfur IDP was killed by unidentified men, a camp leader said today. The incident happened after the IDP's staged a protest yesterday to alert the international community to the volatile security situation as well as convey their request to disarm the Khartoum backed Janjaweed militias before holding peace negotiations.

The IDP's spokesperson Hussein Abu Sharati told Sudan Tribune today that a number of people infiltrated the Humedia camp at 8 pm last night and assaulted those who took part in yesterday's demonstrations.

A state official in Zalingi came to investigate and receive the body but the camp residents refused to give it to him, the IDP spokesperson said. (ST)

European, Canadian teams on tour with UNAMID staff

October 21, 2008 (EL FASHER) – UNAMID is hosting a number of foreign delegations from Europe and Canada.

The Dutch Ambassador for Human Rights Arjan Hamburger is currently in Sudan and met with UNAMID Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada and other senior mission officials, UNAMID reported on Monday.

Similarly, military and police officials representing the United Kingdom arrived in Darfur on Saturday for a one-week visit. Lt. Col. Slinger and Chris Sharwood-Smith, United Nations police training coordinator, conducted interviews with UNAMID police advisers and Formed Police Units (FPU) officers on their pre-deployment training. Both men are from the United Kingdom Permanent Mission in New York.

(ST)

Southern leader calls for support of Sudan's people initiative on Darfur

21/10/08, **Sudanese Media Centre website**, Khartoum -- First VP and GOSS President Salva Kiir has stressed the need for better planning in order to have proper election process. He was addressing the joint session between the states council and southern Sudan parliament MPs in Juba. He told MPs that his government would support unity but asked that the southern option of self-determination be acknowledged. Kiir also emphasized the need for national consensus on the result of population census and he urged MPs support the Sudan people initiative declared by President Al-Bashir for resolving Darfur crisis.

Official says "any negative signal" by ICC will affect peace in Sudan

21/10/08, **Suna website**, Khartoum – Presidential Assistant Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, pointed out that any negative signals by the ICC will definitely affect the positive atmosphere of peace in Sudan. At a meeting Tuesday with the British envoy for Sudan, Michael O'Neill, at the Republican Palace; Dr Nafi asserted the importance of international cooperation to overcome the ICC crisis. He referred to a positive role that can be played by the international institutions and the super countries, including Britain, France and the United States in this regard. Dr Nafi stressed the importance of support to the Initiative of the People of Sudan which provides a favourable atmosphere for positive dialogue within the framework of the Arab-African initiative, which is led by Qatar. He acquainted the British envoy with the preparations for the coming general elections and the keenness to guarantee their fairness with the presence of international observers. The meeting also reviewed the current humanitarian situation in Darfur and underscored the importance of paving the way for work with the organizations to push ahead the humanitarian aid process in the region.

Sudanese court to resume US diplomat murder trial

21/10/08, **Sudanese Media Centre website** -- Khartoum north court headed by Judge Sid

Ahmad al-Badri is to hold sessions tomorrow [22 Oct] to try five suspects facing charge of killing US diplomat John Granville and his driver Abbas Abd-al-Rahman.
According to the SMC, the court will remain in session until 2 November.

LINKS

SUDAN: Interests favour avoiding war, despite new arms. [Analysis]. *Oxford Analytica* (UK).21/10/2008. (AM). **S**
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-10-21AKHY-7KMHJT>Brian Kelly

