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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

Local News Headlines

- Documents reveal secret cooperation between Ocampo and UNMIS (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- UN donates satellite system for border demarcation (the Citizen/Al-Sahafa)
- SPLA declares curfew in Kurmuk (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- SPLA mobilizing heavy military equipment and fighters in Abyei (Al-Intibaha)
- Court to nominate Abyei Area fifth arbitrator (Akhir Lahza)
- SPLM demands Radio in Gedaref (Al-Intibaha)
- Ambassadors Participate in People of Sudan Forum (Sudan Vision)

Websites/International Headlines

- Sudan dismisses UN report on Darfur displacement (ST)
- China workers abducted in Sudan (BBC News)
- First batch of Nepalese troops join Darfur peacekeeping force (Sudan Tribune)

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

Documents reveal secret cooperation between Ocampo and UNMIS

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports it has got secret documents which reveal that the ICC Prosecutor Ocampo sought the help of the former UNDPKO chief Jean Marie Guehenno to obtain information and documents from UNMIS to investigate alleged crimes in Darfur. Ocampo promised not to disclose the cooperation with UNMIS and also promised to protect the documents being sent to his office in accordance with Article (18) of the agreement between UN and the office of the ICC Prosecutor.

Ocampo confirmed to Guehenno that he realized the sensitivity of cooperation between his office and UNMIS particularly with regard to the safety of UNMIS personnel. According to documents in the paper's possession, Guehenno had agreed to Ocampo's request to provide him with the required documents based on specific arrangement and conditions.

Guehenno pointed out that passing the information and documents to a third party would affect UNMIS operations and the safety of personnel because of being so highly sensitive. UN requested the Prosecutor not to make the documents available to a third party and not to disclose that they had been provided by the UN so that UNMIS could continue carrying out its activities in Sudan. UN requested the ICC Prosecutor's office to check with it should it wants to present the documents and information to the court as evidence. UN also urged the Prosecutor and members of his office to keep the sources of the documents and information in total secrecy and to avoid any step that might put the sources or their relatives at risk.

(Al-Rai Al-Aam concludes by saying more details will follow)

UN donates satellite system for border demarcation

The Citizen and Al-Sahafa report UNMIS has handed over satellite imagery system to the team tasked with producing the border map, one of the key elements of the CPA which ended the long-running north-south civil war in the Sudan. SRSF Ashraf Qazi presented the equipment, worth \$600000 to the Ad hoc Technical Border Committee whose 18 members are drawn from both CPA partners.

SPLA declares curfew in Kurmuk

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports SPLA declared curfew in the town of Kurmuk as from yesterday evening without consulting with the Blue Nile state government. According to sources, SPLA command in the area has declared curfew without checking with the government.

SPLA mobilizing heavy military equipment and fighters in Abyei

Al-Intibaha reports SPLA has actually begun preparing for any eventuality in the Abyei area, CPA's main obstacle. Informed sources told the paper that SPLA moved heavy military equipment from Juba to Abyei area last week. The equipment reached Abyei last Tuesday and included 10 heavy tanks, 10 "Doshka-mounted" land cruiser vehicles, 20 anti-armoured guns (B10), 15 howitzers, 5 artillery, 12 rockets, 15 personnel carriers and three armed battalions. Maj. Gen. Paul Akot is the commander of the SPLA forces which have taken up their positions

in Abyei area. The sources said that was a violation of the Abyei Area Roadmap and the CPA.

30 SPLA tanks also arrived in Judia area in the Blue Nile State. Sources view SPLA rearmament in the three Areas as evidence it wants to launch a large scale war on the north before upcoming elections.

Court to nominate Abyei Area fifth arbitrator

Akhir Lahza reports GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong as saying the International Court will nominate Abyei area fifth arbitrator next Monday. He said NCP and SPLM had failed to select the fifth arbitrator from a list of five persons.

SPLM demands Radio in Gedaref

Al-Intibaha reports SPLM in Gedaref sought local State Government's permission to set up a broadcasting station to air its activities. SPLM letter signed by Health Minister Mustafa Al-Sayed Khalil (SPLM) was sent to the local state government stating SPLM had finalized all preparations including budget for the broadcasting station.

Ambassadors Participate in People of Sudan Forum

Sudan Vision reports a number of ambassadors accredited to Sudan participate in the Forum of the People of Sudan for solving Darfur problem including the ambassadors of US, Britain and France besides the ambassadors of Qatar. Chairman of the Forum's Information Committee Dr. Jalal Yousuf Al-Digair told **Sudan TV** that the People of Sudan Initiative is intended to achieve consensus on a common vision to address Darfur at talks in Qatar.

Website/International News Coverage

Sudan dismisses UN report on Darfur displacement

(**Sudan Tribune Website**) October 18, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese government denied report by the UN that there has been mass displacement in North Darfur state as a result of escalation in violence.

The governor of North Darfur State, Osman Mohamed Yusuf Kibir told Sudan news agency (**SUNA**) that the state "is violence free". Kibir also said that he has summoned the UN official who made these statements.

This week Gregory Alex, head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in northern Darfur, told Reuters that around 24,000 people fled their homes after clashes between government and rebel forces near the areas of Bir Maza and Disa.

The rest were displaced because of other forms of violence, including tribal fighting, Alex told Reuters in a telephone interview from El Fasher, North Darfur's state capital.

But Kibir said that Alex was speaking about events that happened in the last six months and not recently.

He also said that the number of displaced people in the camps is dropping due to voluntary repatriation.

China workers abducted in Sudan

(**BBC News**) Nine Chinese oil workers have been kidnapped in Sudan, a Chinese diplomat in the capital, Khartoum, has said. The men, and their two Sudanese drivers, were abducted in the southern Kordofan state on Saturday afternoon.

The unidentified kidnappers later released one of the local drivers with a note saying they wanted a share in the region's oil wealth.

It is the third time in the last year that oil workers have been abducted in the energy-rich region. The men were taken from an oil field, near the district of Abyei, owned by the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company, a consortium of four oil companies from China, India, Malaysia and Sudan.

"One driver was released and handed over a note by the captors demanding a settlement through a share of oil production," an unidentified diplomatic source told the Reuters news agency.

"We are doing our best efforts to find them," Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Li Chengwen told the Associated Press news agency.

Ali Yousuf, director of protocol at the Sudanese foreign ministry, told AFP news agency that Sudanese forces were searching the area, but no contact had been made with the kidnappers so far.

Darfur conflict

The incident occurred near the region of Darfur, where ethnic African rebels are fighting Arab-dominated government forces.

The Darfur rebels, who accuse Beijing of indirectly helping to fund the Sudanese government's military operations in the area through oil revenues, have in the past attacked Chinese oil fields and kidnapped foreign workers.

Diplomats say the abductors were probably from the same tribal group which seized four Indian oil workers in mid-May.

One man was later released and two others managed to escape. The fourth man is believed to have escaped but was never found.

First batch of Nepalese troops join Darfur peacekeeping force

(**Sudan Tribune Website**) October 19, 2008 (EL FASHER) – The first batch of Nepalese Formed Police Unit (FPU) arrived today in Nyala where they will be based for a one-year tour of duty in Darfur, the UNAMID said.

108 Nepalese police officers of the 147 strong force arrived today to the capital of South Darfur. They will be followed by the rest of the unit on 21 October 2008.

These officers were preceded, on 23 September 2008, by an advance party of twelve (12) Nepalese Police Advisors tasked with assisting in the preparations of the facilities earmarked for the Unit at UNAMID Super-Camp and the coordination of the logistics of the contingent's owned equipment (COE).

Police Advisors are unarmed civilian police officers whose task is to conduct patrols, investigate incidents, monitor reports, conduct community policing in Darfur Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDP) camps, as well as training.

UNAMID FPUs are specialized, self-sufficient and fully mobile rapid reaction police units, entirely composed of police officers from a single contingent, with expertise in crowd-

management and other police tactical operations.

They may be called upon to engage in high risk assignments and the protection of people in imminent danger, preventing attacks and threats against civilians, and in monitoring and providing security and protection in IDP camps, threatened villages, and migration routes.

Besides providing security, they will also assist national authorities and UN agencies in delivering humanitarian assistance in times of need and conducting escort duties in order to build the confidence of the local population in the rule of law.

The Nepalese Formed Police Unit is the third UNAMID FPU to be deployed, after the Bangladeshi and Indonesian ones, out of the 19 such units mandated by the Security Council resolution creating UNAMID.