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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Abyei Administration assumes function next week (SMC)
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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Government urges UN to assist Darfur peace*

**Al-Khartoum** reports the South Darfur State Acting Governor Farah Mustafa has urged the UN Undersecretary General Alain Le Roy to assist Sudan Government to achieve peace and to provide UNAMID with necessary equipment to enable it to contribute towards stability and security in Darfur. Mustafa told Le Roy yesterday that the security situation in Darfur was improving.

**Akhir Lahza** reports Le Roy said coming weeks would witness completion of UNAMID deployment in Darfur to keep peace and protect relief convoys. He has said UN would transport hybrid equipment from Al-Obeid Airport to Darfur, noting the step was in execution of last week's agreement with Sudan Government.

### *Abyei Administration assumes function next Week*

**Sudan Media Centre (SMC)** reports the Abyei Area Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Al Nur Abdel Rahman said in an exclusive statement to SMC that the newly-appointed Abyei administrators would assume their functions next week. Rahama said the priority of the administration at this stage would be the repatriation of IDP to their original areas as well as security.

### *UN trains 80 health worker*

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports UNFPA said it trained 80 health employees in collaboration with GoSS Ministry of Health on how to assist mothers during delivery. Representatives from the Greater Equatoria, Greater Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal attended the training session.

### *Scandal likely to cost Ki-moon his job*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the UNSG is at risk of being removed from his post because of signing a secret cooperation agreement between UN and NATO authorizing the latter to act without consultation with member states and the SC permanent members.

### *Ethiopian aircraft carrying 15 tons of arms landed in Juba*

**Local dailies** report an Ethiopia military aircraft (Antonov – 12) carrying over 15 tons of arms landed in Juba Airport on Friday. Sources said UN monitors have searched the plane which is presently at Juba airport. The plane is carrying artillery, rockets and ammunition of anti-aircraft and anti-armored vehicles. According to the sources Ethiopia supplied SPLA with 10 tanks three months ago.

**Al-Intibaha** reports SPLA cordoned off the aircraft and prevented UNMIS and JIUs from approaching it. UNMIS denied knowledge about the aircraft cargo but a JIU informed source said the relevant parties held a meeting yesterday with SPLA command but no agreement was reached to contain the crisis. The JIU source said the plane was also carrying 19 Ethiopian military experts and that SPLA tried to unload the aircraft in the night but UN objected on the grounds of CPA violation. Sources claimed the cargo was intended for display at a military exhibition in Juba. Intensive consultations were held yesterday between JIU, UNMIS and SPLA

but all efforts were failed to convince SPLA to allow search of the plane.

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the MFA is conducting contacts with Ethiopia and Kenya about the aircraft and the ship seized by pirates. It said the MFA is also likely to summon the Ethiopian and Kenyan Ambassadors.

### ***President Al-Bashir receives Arab initiative steering committee***

**Sudan News Agency (SUNA)** reports President Bashir has affirmed full support for the Arab initiative for solving Darfur issue. The President met yesterday the delegation of the steering committee of the initiative, led by the Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Ben Abdalla Al-Mahmoud. The Qatari Minister said they explained to the President the objectives of the visit and its outcome and they handed over to the President a copy of the Arab initiative for solving Darfur problem.

### ***SAF comes under fire from within Nertiti IDP camp***

**Al-Khartoum** reports SAF unit was fired at yesterday from within Nertiti IDP camp, in Jebel Marra, in South Darfur. SAF spokesperson Al-Agbash told SMC a SAF soldier was wounded and two attackers have been killed in the incident. He said SAF retaliated when fired at from within the camp.

### ***Arab Justice Ministers meet today in Cairo***

**Local dailies** report the Arab Justice Ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting today in Cairo to discuss legal aspects of the dispute between the Sudanese Government and the ICC. Sudan Government requested the meeting for discussion on the ICC Prosecutor's application for arrest warrant for Bashir.

### ***Turabi expects failure of the People of the Sudan's initiative***

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports the Popular Congress Party leader Hassan Al-Turabi said his party boycott the people of Sudan's initiative because it is too late. He said his party had repeatedly tried to convince the NCP to resolve Darfur crisis but to no avail. He expected failure of the initiative because of non-participation of the Darfur armed movement. "The Popular Congress Party has not been invited to participate," he said.

### ***Journalist Union condemns ill-treatment***

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports the General Union of the Sudanese Journalists has urged its members to boycott activities of the departments and corporations which do not respect journalists. The Union condemned the ill-treatment of a group of journalists invited by the MFA to accompany the Qatari Minister of State to Juba. The journalists were asked to get out of the aircraft although they have been officially invited to travel.

### ***Arab League Secretary General to visit Sudan***

**Sudan Vision** reports the Arab league Secretary General Amru Musa will arrive in Khartoum next Wednesday on two-day official visit to discuss with Sudanese officials the Qatari initiative and ICC application for arrest warrant for Bashir.

## Website/International News Coverage

### *US warns of "Al-Qaeda" group threat in Sudan*

By Andrew Heavens

KHARTOUM (**Reuters**) - The United States said on Saturday a group called "Al Qaeda in the Land of the Two Niles" has threatened its citizens and allies in Sudan, adding to fears of a growing extremist presence in the country.

Embassy officials also said they had warned staff against using a Khartoum cafe popular with Westerners and rich Sudanese. The Sudanese government has repeatedly denied al Qaeda has an active presence in Sudan.

A message on the U.S. embassy website said the group had issued a statement which referred to the murder of U.S. aid official John Granville and his driver on January 1.

The group said its "jihad and fight against the United States of America and its allies of crusaders and apostates will continue," according to the embassy.

Another U.S. embassy message said it had warned staff not to use the Ozone cafe in an affluent Khartoum district as it was "particularly vulnerable". Ozone is an open air cafe in the centre of a busy roundabout surrounded by houses and businesses. Staff and customers are clearly visible from the road and buildings. An embassy spokeswoman said she could not comment on whether the Ozone warning was linked to the Al Qaeda threat.

There have been growing fears that extremist groups have set up operations in Khartoum.

In August 2007, Sudanese security services said they had broken up a plot to attack the French, British, U.S. and U.N. diplomatic missions in Khartoum.

The group was discovered in a Khartoum house after explosives went off by accident, foreign sources said.

Five men are currently appearing in court in Khartoum charged with the murder of John Granville and his driver Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama. All five deny the charge.

Prosecutors said the groups that killed Granville and his driver targeted Americans, thought were trying to "Christianize" the predominantly Muslim nation.

Earlier this year, al Qaeda graffiti also started appearing on walls in the capital.

Sudan, which hosted al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in the 1990s, has been on a U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism since 1993.

### *Editor arrested in south Sudan over corruption exposé*

11/10/08, JUBA (**AFP**) - A local newspaper editor said on Saturday he was being held by southern Sudanese authorities for publishing an article critical of corruption in the semi-autonomous, post-conflict region. Nhial Bol, editor of The Citizen, said police arrested him on Friday morning for a story printed October 7, which lay corruption accusations against the ministry of legal affairs and constitutional development in southern Sudan.

"This should be a civil case, but I have been told I will be held for three days without bail," Bol

told **AFP** by telephone from inside a police station in the southern capital, Juba. "We have verified the facts of the story, but any action -- if they want to challenge it -- should be taken against me through the use of the courts, not by taking me to jail."

Police were not immediately reachable for comment.

Accusations of corruption have dogged mass reconstruction projects in the south. It is not the first time the combative editor has brushed with the law. His southern-based, English-language newspaper was suspended by the authorities in Khartoum last month, although it has since been allowed to continue printing in the Sudanese capital. Sudan has tightened restrictions on local media in recent months, demanding that newspapers based in the south move their head offices to Khartoum.

The country's interim constitution upholds freedom of the press and expression. But censorship is practiced daily. In Khartoum, the powerful security apparatus inspects newspaper editions nightly, while editors who refuse to remove articles deemed offensive risk a ban on their publications.

According to a report on the Sudan Tribune website, the editor said he was detained for publishing an article critical of high salaries practices in GoSS legal affairs. "In Khartoum there is dictatorship and in Juba corruption is spreading like wildfire", Bol said, adding that he was certain of the accuracy of the story.

### ***Darfur IDP slam lack of protection by UNAMID***

(KHARTOUM) ***Sudan Tribune website***, 11/10/08 — Darfur displaced slammed the role played by the hybrid peacekeeping force in the protection of civilians in the camps and elsewhere.

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy, accompanied by UNAMID head Rodolphe Adada visited IDP camps in south Darfur states. Kalma camp IDP representatives criticized the lack of protection for the civilians inside the camp. They said that the UNAMID had failed to bring security to the IDPs. They also asked for the deployment of Western peacekeepers with the necessary military capabilities to deter any attack on Darfur camps.

Le Roy visited the graveyard where the dozens of displaced killed by the Sudanese authorities last August are buried.

IDP spokesperson Hussein Abu Sharati told the Sudan Tribune they presented a memorandum to Le Roy comprising 47 demands. He said the IDPs still demand disarmament of the Janjaweed and renewed security before any talks. He urged the international community not to freeze the indictment of the Sudanese President. "Any move in this direction means carte blanche from the U.N." he said.

While in El Fasher, Le Roy also met with local civil society representatives, whom he referred to as "natural allies" in the peace process in the region. He also met with Minni Minawi the former rebel leader turned senior Presidential Assistant. He discussed with him the implementation of Abuja agreement.

### ***Sudan's Turabi stigmatizes Darfur National Conference***

11/10/08 (KHARTOUM) ***Sudan Tribune website***— Islamist opposition leader Hassan Al-Turabi today belittled President Bashir's initiative for a national peace conference on Darfur as an attempt to block the ICC effort to prosecute him.

A national conference on the Darfur crisis ("The People of Sudan's Initiative") is expected to start next Thursday. It was first mooted by President Bashir on 13 July. Popular Congress Party spokesperson El-Mahboub Abdel Salam told the Sudan Tribune that the PCP had not been invited to the conference.

### ***Ethiopia, Sudan to begin land transport***

11/10/08 (ADDIS ABABA) ***Sudan Tribune Website*** – The construction of a highway that connects neighboring countries of Ethiopia and Sudan is completed, the Sudanese embassy in Addis Ababa has announced. Most of the construction of the highway connecting the two countries is completed and will be inaugurated in two weeks time, the Sudanese diplomat Mohamed Yousef Hassan told pro-government Walta information center.

Of late, Sudan has become Ethiopia's major oil supplier, while moves are advanced to import electric power from Ethiopia. Sudan exports oil, gas and other commodities to Ethiopia and imports coffee, leather and leather products, tea and other agricultural products.

## **Links**

The Middle East Media Research Institute

October 12, 2008

Saudi and Sudanese Writers Warn Of 'Shi'ite Octopus' Taking Over Sudan

<http://www.memri.org/bin/latestnews.cgi?ID=SD20>

