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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

Ban says Khartoum should fully cooperate with ICC, Nafie says dictation unacceptable

Al-Sahafa reports the UNSG Ki-moon urged Khartoum yesterday to fully cooperate with the ICC. "Sudan should engage in credible judicial measures to meet the ICC requirements whose decision and rules should be respected," he said.

The Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie speaking at press conference in Paris yesterday said, "No body can impose dictation on Sudan in a manner that impinges its dignity and sovereignty," However, Nafie has emphasized the need for an indirect mediator between Sudan government and the ICC. Nafie who returned yesterday from France said no agreement was reached with the French officials because of preconditions. France wants Khartoum to make concessions about Darfur and ICC before they support any deferment for Bashir indictment. Nafie also said in Paris that SLM (Abdul Wahid) was the only faction rejecting Qatari initiative.

Also, Ban has said efforts were underway to secure Ukrainian helicopters and personnel to join UNAMID.

Tripartite mechanism agree to expedite hybrid deployment

Al-Ayyam reports UN, AU and Sudan government tripartite mechanism's meeting reached an agreement yesterday on how to accelerate hybrid deployment in Darfur. The agreement tackled issues of free movement of troops, protection of convoys, customs, visas, land and water.

Undersecretary-General Susana Malcorra has urged the government to expedite and facilitate customs for speedy movement of UNAMID equipment. However Malcorra has noted that without the cooperation of the Government of Sudan no progress in hybrid deployment would be made. Speaking to the press yesterday, Malcorra has emphasized the need for all parties to shoulder their responsibilities so that the operation is successful.

The MFA spokesperson Ali Al Sadiq has rejected claims that the delay of hybrid deployment was intentionally caused by Sudan. He said the delay was caused by UNAMID unduly filling up of customs forms. Sudan did not refuse Mission planes access to airports, the cargos were beyond airports capacity, he said. At the meeting, the Sudan Government promised to accept any action that would increase efficiency of the hybrid force.

Malcorra is expected to report to the Security Council about the difficulties encountering hybrid deployment and the Mechanism will meet again within six weeks.

Border demarcation commission embarks on description of boundary

Sudan Media Centre (**SMC**) reports the technical committee for demarcation of boundaries between north and south embarks on description of boundaries based on borderline of first of January 1956. Head of the committee Abdallah Al Asdig Ali told (SMC) that his committee would submit a preliminary report on this matter by next November and its final report would be submit by April next year. He explains that the committee works aggressively to finish its

mission on the schedule. However, he denies existence of any obstacles facing the committee's work.

BBC confirms weapons shipment destined for Southern Sudan

Akhbar Al Yom reports the BBC story which confirmed the arms shipment was destined for Southern Sudan. The paper carried the story in its front page with images of the ship and tanks as well as a copy of the manifest confirming the shipment was destined for southern Sudan.

VP Taha during his recent visit to Juba asked Kiir about the arms shipment but Kiir had denied any link with the weapons. GoSS Minister of Information dismissed the BBC report and further denied any connection with the arms shipment.

Military experts fear the shipment is an indication of North-South arms race to build their armies before upcoming referendum.

US Envoy meets Kiir

Al-Ahdath reports the US Envoy Ritchard Williamson met FVP Kiir in Rumbek yesterday. They discussed CPA implementation, Abyei Area roadmap, GoNU efforts to address Darfur and ICC, SPLM role towards resolution of issues, upcoming elections and funding to ensure their integrity and transparency.

13 killed and 9 wounded in South Darfur

Al-Ahdath reports 13 persons have been killed and 9 others wounded in tribal clash in Ajara area near Mohajiriya, 71 km east of Nyala, South Darfur.

A government source speaking on condition of anonymity said there were conflicting reports about the tribes involved in the fighting and the situation remains unclear because the area is under the control of SLA (Minnawi faction).

Trial of Omdurman attackers resumes

Al-Sahafa reports the counter terrorism court resumed yesterday trial of 12 JEM elements accused of participation in the attack on Omdurman last May. The court judge, Osama Osman, said court sittings will be held Sunday through Thursday.

Gunmen rob INGO in Darfur

Al-Sahafa reports four unidentified armed men attacked residence of a World Vision's officer yesterday in Nyala, South Darfur. Deputy Director said the attackers looted property of the relief Agency. He said the attack would not affect activity of the agency in the area.

UN vehicle killed one person, injured two

Al-Watan reports a UN vehicle (UN568) met with an accident in Kosti, killing one person and injured two others. The UN vehicle fled from the scene after the accident but later seized in the Rebek.

Southern Kordofan Governor accuses NGOs of destabilizing the State

Al-Khartoum reports the governor of Southern Kordofan State Omer Sulaiman has accused INGOs, he did not name, of working to destabilize the State. He said the behavior of some INGOs personnel caused tribal fighting over the past period. The governor has stressed the need for coordination between the State Government and the INGOs for implementation of any programme.

Websites/International News Coverage

Security situation in Darfur deteriorating -- UN chief

Agence France-Presse, 7/10/09, UNITED NATIONS -- The security situation in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region is deteriorating, and UNAMID is struggling to maintain peace there is overstretched, UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned Tuesday.

"The situation in Darfur is deteriorating. We are seeing increasing attacks on UN and international staff," he told a press conference, pointing to the ambush killing of a Nigerian UN peacekeeper Monday. "The UNAMID mission is severely stretched."

The Nigerian was gunned down when up to 60 gunmen ambushed a UNAMID patrol in Sudan's war-torn western region of Darfur, bringing to 10 the number of peacekeepers killed in hostile incidents since the launch of joint operations on December 31.

Ban said he sent his head of peacekeeping, Alain Le Roy, and the new head of the UN Field Services, Susana Malcorra, to Sudan "to accelerate our deployment and push the political process, without which there can be no peace."

The SG said he now aimed to deploy 65% of UNAMID, which has a mandated strength of 26,000, by the end of the year and 85% of the force by next March. But he said these figures may have to be adjusted "in view of the circumstances on the ground."

Ban said battalions of Thai and Nepalese peacekeepers were expected to join UNAMID by the end of October and noted that negotiations were continuing to secure the deployment of Ukrainian military helicopters and personnel to Darfur.

UNAMID urgently needs 24 transport and attack helicopters with the required mobility and firepower to protect civilians adequately.

Pirates reveal Sudan's precarious peace

By Amber Henshaw, **BBC News**, Khartoum, 7/10/08 -- Evidence that a shipment of tanks and military equipment seized by Somali pirates was destined for South Sudan adds weight to suspicions that the former enemies in Sudan's long civil war are once more stockpiling weapons. Some southerners fear renewed conflict after the 2011 referendum

The BBC has seen a copy of the Ukrainian MV Faina's freight manifest suggesting that the Russian-made hardware was bought by South Sudan's government.

The semi-autonomous south of Sudan is said to be beefing up its military ahead of the 2011 referendum that could see the north and south of the country split. Experts say a large portion of the south's budget is being spent on military equipment, salaries and training even though vast sums are still needed to rebuild a region devastated by civil war. War raged for more than two decades until a peace deal was signed in 2005. The north and south are now uneasy, distrustful partners in a coalition government.

For its part, the dominant National Congress Party (NCP) led by President Omar Al-Bashir, is keeping quiet. The north's military focus is the on-going conflict in Darfur, which started five years ago when mostly non-Arab groups took up arms against the government.

There is a UN arms embargo that covers the use of weapons in the Darfur region. The fear is that if anyone delved too deep the north could be exposed for breaking that embargo, with potentially serious consequences at a delicate time for the NCP.

One political insider in Khartoum said: "The north is being very quiet about the tanks. They can't say anything about this because they are doing the same. If they say anything it will open a can of worms."

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) - the former rebels who now run the south - and the Kenyan government have denied the hi-jacked shipment was bound for South Sudan and the reason for secrecy is clear: this cargo and the previous orders amount to a violation of the peace deal that brought an end to the lengthy civil war. Under that deal, the south is due to vote in 2011 in a referendum on whether to secede from Sudan.

But many southerners fear that Khartoum could attack if the south votes for independence. A Sudanese expert with close ties to the SPLM government said the military build-up was to deter conflict, not trigger it: "The south is preparing for the worst but expecting the best. "It's not in the south's interests to have another war but if you want peace you have to prepare for war," he said.

Violent clashes between soldiers from the north and south in May in the disputed oil-rich border town of Abyei revealed how tense the situation had become.

The SPLM dreams of transforming itself from a group of guerrilla fighters into a proper, well-equipped modern army and is planning to establish its own air-force and navy to patrol the region's rivers. The US and the UK both have programmes in the south to support and train the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

This is not the first time the semi-autonomous region has received such equipment and experts say the north too is boosting its collection of heavy weapons.

In November 2007 military sources said that 35 Ukrainian tanks were transported to South Sudan after being offloaded at the Kenyan port of Mombassa. Contract numbers include the initials GOSS, thought to be government of South Sudan.

The MV Faina was on its way to Mombassa when hi-jacked off the coast of Somalia on 26 September. There have been other reports of arms shipments over the last year.

Under the 2005 peace deal, replenishment of ammunition, weapons and other military equipment is only allowed if it is approved by a north-south Joint Defence Board.

But senior SPLM official Yasir Arman said: "I believe that the SPLM has not violated any article of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and I believe that the SPLM has nothing to do with dealing with arms. "The SPLM is putting most of its money to development and services," he said.

Adding to the tension is the wait to see whether an arrest warrant will be issued against Mr Bashir on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for alleged atrocities committed in Darfur.

The Sudanese government is lobbying to have the United Nations Security Council postpone the request to issue a warrant. An SPLM insider based in Khartoum said: "If it wasn't for the International Criminal Court then the north would have caused a lot of problems about the tanks

but at the moment it's in their interest to stay silent."

Kenya calls for use of force on Somali pirates

(Daily Nation) Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula has called for the use of force to secure the arms seized by Somalia pirates a fortnight ago.

His remarks echo a United Nations Security Council resolution that directs naval vessels and military aircraft to use "all necessary means" to stamp out piracy.

Mr. Wetangula said the Kenya Government will now fight the pirates "anywhere and everywhere" to keep the high seas safe.

The resolution only applies to pirates off Somalia, whose 1,880-mile coastline is the longest in Africa and near key shipping routes that connect the Indian Ocean with the Red Sea.

Addressing a news conference at his office, Mr. Wetangula insisted that ransom should not be paid, as doing so would empower the pirates.

"The more you pay, the more you empower them," the minister said.

It is estimated that the pirates have made between US\$30-50 million from ransom payments over the last two years.

They have been demanding US\$20 million to release the ship that was hijacked with arms from Ukraine en route to the Mombasa port.

Similarly, Mr. Wetangula disclosed that the Kenya Navy would start patrols on Somalia's territorial waters to secure the Indian Ocean Coast of the criminals.

He termed the pirates as "part of an organized international criminal syndicate" that would have grave consequences on the maritime trade route to the Mombasa port.

"There is a real risk of merchant ship owners shunning the region," Mr Wetangula said.

But even as he pushed for the use of force to end the stand-off over the seized cargo, the minister could not clarify the extent of the operation.

However, he insisted that the UN resolution gave "extra-territorial powers" but he was hard-pressed to explain if this meant an invasion into the Somalia mainland to pursue the pirates.

On the other hand, Somalia's Foreign Affairs minister Ali Ahmed Jama called for caution before force is applied.

Mr. Jama said that even though the threat "was serious and unacceptable" the safety of the crew that is being held hostage should be taken into consideration.

"It is an extremely delicate situation that would be difficult to resolve," Mr. Jama said.

At the same time, Mr. Wetangula refuted media reports that the arms were destined for Southern Sudan.

He termed the report as "unhelpful speculation" that is intent on contradicting the Government's position.

On Tuesday, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that the weapons were headed to Southern Sudan as per the freight manifests which had the acronym "GOSS." The BBC had interpreted the acronym to mean "Government of Southern Sudan," but Mr. Wetangula said it stood for "General Ordinance Supply and Security." "You cannot take initials and apply them narrowly... the Government is not a broker," he said.

Mr. Wetangula maintained that the information on the bill of lading was "correct." He however, ruled out the release of contracts pertaining to the arms for public scrutiny.

Mr. Wetangula said that if evidence emerges that shows otherwise, then it will be dealt with by the government.

"These are security matters... no government worth its salt will parade security contracts to the media," he said.

Since the arms were captured by the pirates, speculation has been rife that the arms were headed to Southern Sudan, although both the Kenya and South Sudan Governments have denied the reports.

A spokesman for the East African chapter of the Seafarers Assistance Programme Andrew Mwangura, who was the first to disclose that the arms were actually destined for Southern Sudan, was arrested last week and charged but was released on bond on Tuesday.

Seafarer official released on bond

Kenyan Broadcasting Corporation, 7/10/08 Andrew Mwangura, the seafarer official arrested last week for alarming statements he made regarding the hijacked Ukrainian freighter, has been released. Mwangura was released on a 200,000 shillings bond and his case set for hearing on the 13th of this month.

Andrew Mwangura the coordinator of the Kenyan chapter of the East African Seafarers association was arrested last Thursday following claims he made to the effect that the military cargo on the hijacked ship was destined to Sudan.

When he was brought to court on Tuesday his lawyer, Joseph Kadima appealed to Mombasa senior resident magistrate to have the case transferred to the constitutional courts due to its nature. The magistrate said she needs more time to familiarize herself with the case and moved its hearing to the 13th of this month. The accused was released with a bond of 200,000 shillings with a surety of the same amount. The government has however dismissed Mwangura's allegation saying the cargo on the hijacked ship belongs to Kenya

Sudan: Fashion Police Make Arrests

Reuters, 7/10/08 -- More than 35 young women wearing tight trousers were arrested in South Sudan for disturbing the peace, senior police officials said on Tuesday. The arrests in Juba were part of a campaign against youth gangs, the authorities said. The women were arrested on Sunday night but were released without charge on Monday. Many Juba residents reacted angrily to the arrests. "We saw about 30 girls in two trucks piled up like animals," said Nok Duany, a civil servant.

Links

Lives lost through lack of leadership in UN response to humanitarian crises, Britain warns. [News Story]. By Julian Borger. *The Guardian (UK)*.07/10/2008. (Noon).
<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-10-07RRGA-7K7K5L>

