



DDR

07/11/10

Weekly Media Monitor

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Highlights

DDR operations begin in Khartoum

Sudan Now-News magazine 04/11/2010 - KHARTOUM (Sudanow) - A new demobilization centre has been launched in Khartoum as part of the ongoing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme in the CPA areas of Sudan, on Wednesday, 03 November, a news release issued by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said on Thursday .

Release said personnel jointly deployed by the UNMIS Integrated DDR Unit and the North Sudan DDR Commission (Sector Central), processed a total of 40 candidates on the first day of operations at the demobilization centre, located on the southern flank of the Sudanese capital.

The release said about 6,500 elements from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Popular Defence Force (PDF) will be processed at the centre.

It pointed out that the operation in Khartoum falls under Phase One of the multi-year DDR programme, in which thousands of veterans of the North-South War are being discharged from the military and progressively reintegrated into civilian life as part of the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the conflict .

The release pointed out that by 02 November 2010, some 31,600 combatants from the SAF, PDF and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), including women who were associated in non-combat roles with these forces, had been demobilized across the CPA areas. Many of these ex-combatants have already advanced into the reintegration phase of the programme, which provides them with the training and skills needed to sustain a civilian livelihood.

Khartoum is the eighth centre down the line, since the launch of the first demobilization site in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State on 10 February 2010. Since then, DDR candidates have been successfully demobilized in five other centers, including Kadugli, Julud, Juba, Rumbek and Aweil.

It explained that besides Khartoum, demobilization is currently underway in three more centers – Kaunda, Kadugli (Round 2) and Torit. Preparations are on course for yet another centre envisaged in Wau in the coming weeks.

The DDR programme is operationally managed by the North Sudan and South Sudan DDR Commissions, with technical and logistical support from the UNMIS and UNDP.

We will ask UN to protect southerners in the North – SPLM official

Al-Intibaha 4/11/10 – A symposium organized by the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) yesterday on secession witnessed an exchange of harsh words between National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang and lawyer and human rights activist Ghazi Suleiman forcing the former to walk out from the symposium. Reportedly, Garang was infuriated by Suleiman's remarks that the North's position on the South would be determined by the South's position on the issue of the Middle East. Atem said if an independent south state is established it would not be a racist state but said it was certain that the northern state would be a racist and failed state. He has called on the UN to protect the southerners in the North should a racist state is established in the North. "We will request the UN to protect southerners in the North," he said. He warned the Government in the North that if it expels southern students from universities in the North they would be sent to Arab countries such as Egypt, Algeria and Tunis.

The Citizen 4/11/10 reports that Atem Garang stated that the state of south would be a civilian state that would not practice any racial discrimination against any minority. He welcomed the presence of northerners in the South, stressing that they would be under government protection and would enjoy full rights of citizenship. Atem pointed out that the South would be open without any need for entry visas, indicating that the South would have special consideration for the common ties between the North and South.

SPLM Arman fears Rwanda-like violence

Head of SPLM northern sector, Yassir Arman, said in a conference organized by women politicians in Khartoum that violence similar to what Rwanda had witnessed in '90s might erupt in the country as a result of NCP policies. He called for peaceful coexistence between the people of the Sudan regardless of the referendum outcome. *Al-Sahafa* 4/11/10

SPLA arrests three SAF soldiers in Boru Almadina

Khartoum Monitor 4/11/10 - SPLA arrested three SAF soldiers who attempted to infiltrate into Boru Almadina in Raja County on Tuesday. SPLA spokesperson, Kuol Deim Kuol said the three SAF soldiers were arrested on the suburbs of Boru Almadina while eleven others escaped. Upon interrogation, the three soldiers admitted that they had come from SAF-controlled Kafia Kenji in South Darfur to gather information about SPLA deployment. He added that they have reported the case to the Joint Defense Board and described the incident as attempt to fan the flames of war.

“UNMIS, a picnic and décor costing millions of dollars”

It is my right and so does the right of any observer to ask the UN and the international community which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on UNMIS which manages over 10,000 troops. What is the real role of this military mission which is holed up in high walls with barbed wires and cement barriers in Khartoum and in all the areas of its presence, with its vehicles bearing UN emblem going in and out of these fortes? The question sprang to our mind due to the tense relation between SAF and SPLA and their accusations and counteraccusations over military buildup as the upcoming referendum approaches. What is UNMIS role towards what is happening between SAF and SPLA? SAF claims SPLA attacked Zamali area in Sennar state which was denied by the SPLA. What are UNMIS troops exactly doing in the Sudan? The same question should necessarily be directed to UNAMID. It is known fact that if UN dispatches any peacekeepers to conflict zones, their responsibility is to keep peace even if not to provide protection to civilians when military conflict erupts. They should monitor what is happening and report any breaches to the concerned bodies, in our case is the Joint Defence Board (JDB) and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC). But from what is happening on the ground and what we watch on TV channels and read in the newspapers suggest that UN peacekeepers in Sudan have left that task to the spokespersons of the two armies.

If these "expensive troops" do not carry out even their simplest duty which is to monitor and verify movements and breaches then their presence in our country is nothing more than a "picnic and décor" on which millions of dollars have been spent. This leads us to another question: do we really need additional "idles and picnickers like these ones? *Akhir Lahza 4/11/10*

CPA partners to meet in Addis Ababa next week

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salaheldine has revealed after a meeting with US envoy Gratian that the two CPA partners would meet in Addis Ababa on 6 November to discuss post-referendum arrangements and Abyei. Gratian, for his part, said "all indications are that registration will begin on time" and called for protecting southerners in the North and guaranteeing of their full rights. *Al-Ayyam 2/11/10*

Sudan rejects extension of US economic sanctions

Sudan on Monday rejected US President Barack Obama's decision to extend economic sanctions on Khartoum ahead of the country's January referendum on southern independence, saying it was not justified. "The US president's decision to extend economic sanctions is not new to us. We were not surprised by the decision, we reject it," Moawiya Osman Khalid, a spokesman for the foreign ministry, told reporters. "We see no reason for the decision of the American administration which continues with its failed policy towards Sudan," he said, adding that the United States had "lost the chance to play a constructive role" in Africa's largest country. *AFP 2/11/10*

SAF repulses SPLM aggression, forcing it to withdraw southward

SUNA 1/11/10 - The Spokesman of the Armed Forces, Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad, announced that Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has staged an aggression on the Armed Forces last Saturday at Al-Zamali area, Sennar state, five kilometers north of January 1st, 1956 border. He said in a statement to SUNA that the attacking SPLA force was estimated at an infantry company supported by three armed Land Cruiser vehicles and a vehicle carrying a mortar gun and a tank. Lt. Col. Saad said that the attack lasted for one hour,

adding that the Armed Forces confronted the aggressors and forced them to withdraw to south of the border of January 1st, 1956. He said that the SPLM tended to portray the incident as happened south of the border of January 1st, 1956...

Sudan Tribune website 1/11/10 reported that Northern and southern Sudan armies are trading accusations over the responsibility for fighting between the two sides occurred last Saturday on the border between Sennar and Upper Nile states. The two parties agreed that their troops clashed in the morning of Saturday but the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) says that Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers penetrated inside Upper Nile state and the latter says SPLA troops attacked them inside Sennar state.

Southern Sudan army spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol, said Sunday that troops from northern Sudan army ambushed SPLA soldiers and returned back to their positions. "They clashed with about 10 of our soldiers and wounded one officer and then they ran back to their base," said Kuol. SAF spokesperson today released a statement where he said that southern Sudan army penetrated to Al-Zamali area located 5 km inside Sennar state where they attacked northern troops.

Al-Sawarmi Khaled said they agreed with the SPLA to investigate the attack through the UN peacekeepers and determine who carried out the attack as it was decided by the Joint Defense Board (JDB). He went further to say they were surprised by the public statements made by the SPLA accusing SAF of ambushing their troops inside southern Sudan border, breaching the ceasefire established by CPA. Both sides stressed their commitment to implement the signed agreements and to avoid return to war. Talks between the two parties are stalled over Abyei and disputed parts of the north south border.

The Sudanese army spokesperson said the JDB formed a joint committee to probe the incident indicating that UNMIS peacekeepers declined to investigate the attack despite their okay to operate in the northern Sudanese side of 1965 border.

SPLM MPs slam budget

SPLM parliamentary bloc in the National Assembly slammed the budget at the general features stage, pointing out that it took no account of development in the South. Head of SPLM parliamentary block, Thomas Wani, censured the budget's adoption of local currency transfers to GoSS as compared to hard currency transfers to the northern and eastern Sudan states. He added that the peace agreement has allocated 50% of oil revenues to be employed in the development projects in the South. *The Citizen* 2/11/10

Sudan closes Darfur radio, rights group offices

Reuters 2/11/10 - Sudan shut the Khartoum office of Radio Dabanga, whose reports on Darfur have angered it, and arrested 13 staff from the radio station and a rights group that shares its offices, the group's chairman said on Tuesday. Abdelmageed Salih, head of Human Rights and Advocacy Network for Democracy (HAND), told Reuters nine journalists and four HAND activists were detained during the weekend raids. "They also raided and closed our office and took all the things inside like the computers and documents and Radio Dabanga equipment," he said from the United States where he now lives. A civil society leader said on Monday nine were arrested.

Radio Dabanga, registered in Holland, is one of few media outlets still reporting on the Darfur conflict. It is not licensed in Sudan and the government continually writes to the Dutch government asking them to close the station, Salih said. HAND also has no legal status in Sudan. The government cracked down on rights groups following a 2009 International

Criminal Court arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes in Darfur. Many activists fled the country fearing for their lives. A source in Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Services said they had no information about the arrests. "When viewed in relation to the upcoming voter registration and referendum in the South...the arrests...show the determination of the Sudanese government to suppress civil society during this critical time, and the extent to which the freedom of expression... will not be tolerated," the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies said in a statement...

Ghazi says signing of a peace deal not enough for maintaining peace in Darfur

The presidential Advisor, Ghazi Salaheddin, the official in charge of the Darfur file, criticized Minawi's insistence to retain his forces despite the passage of four years since the DPA has been signed, reported Al Khartoum daily. Salaheddine reportedly considered this Minawi's attitude as an explicit violation of the Abuja agreement. Meanwhile, the paper quoted him as disclosing contacts with the mediation to prepare a final peace deal draft within the coming days which will be consulted over with political forces in general, and Darfurians in particular. *UNAMID website.2/11/10*

The ambiguous position of Minawi's faction

A report published in Al Intibaha daily traces back the controversy over security arrangements between Minawi faction and GoSS to the year 2006, the issue remaining outstanding till now. According to the report, the faction took several positions which observers saw as opposition to the government, believing that the current situation which engulfed the faction after the sacking of Minawi by the reformist current was behind the former's dispatch of a delegate to discuss with GoSS the implementation of the security arrangements next month. *UNAMID website.2/11/10*

Ten killed in Misseriya-Rizeigat fight near Um Dafug: initial report

More than ten people were killed and about three injured in a clash between the Misseriya and Rizeigat tribes on Saturday in Goz Sasilgo north of Um Dafug in South Darfur. A source in Um Dafug said that heavy weapons were used in the fighting. Radio Dabanga could not reach the authorities in Um Dafug for comment on the news. *Radio Dabanga, UM DAFUG 1/11/10.*

Chairman of Technical Committee for Demarcation of Darfur Northern Borders Highlights on Demarcation Importance

The two-day workshop of the demarcation of borders as Mechanism for maintaining sovereignty and means of realizing security and stability opened Monday in the premises of Sudan News Agency (SUNA).

The workshop was organized by the Technical Committee for Demarcation of the Northern Darfur Borders in collaboration with the Public Survey Authority.

A number of National Assembly deputies from Darfur, university lecturers, experts in survey and demarcation of borders attended the inaugural sitting of the workshop. The technical committee's Chairman, Awad Saeed Saadoun, referred to the political, economic, social and security importance of the demarcation of borders and its effect on the social stability and economic planning in the country. He said that the location of human economic activities like cultivation, grazing and mining could not be determined without identifying the frontiers, in addition to determination of the administrative units such as the states and localities, asserting the importance of external borders in protecting the territories of the

country from foreign interventions. Saadoun stated in the paper he presented at the workshop that the committee was set up according to a Republican Decree in implementation of Darfur peace agreement which was signed in Abuja. He reviewed the committee's performance in the past period. Khartoum, Nov.1(SUNA)

Presidency of the Republic Supports Technical Committee for Demarcation of Darfur Northern States

The State Minister at the Presidency of the Republic, Idris Mohamed Abdul-Gadir, has affirmed the importance of demarcation of the borders toward guaranteeing the sovereignty and providing security and stability. Speaking at the Workshop on Demarcation of the Borders, held the premises of Sudan News Agency (SUNA) Monday, Abdul-Gadir said that the Presidency of the Republic has given great concern to the technical committee for demarcation of the northern borders of Darfur which was established through a Republican Decree in the year 2006, appreciating the important role done by the committee. The workshop was organized by the technical committee for demarcation of the northern borders of Darfur in collaboration with the Public Survey Corporation. He said that the demarcation of the borders necessitates cooperation between a number of concerned organs that include the localities, the executive authorities and the regular forces, calling for expansion of the border demarcation culture among the social categories.

Meanwhile, chairman of the committee organizing the workshop, Siddiq Mekki Muniem, said that the workshop aims inform with the concept of border demarcation and its link with the political reality and its role in guaranteeing sovereignty and providing security and stability, besides reflecting the role of the Public Survey Corporation as a sovereign authority that specializing in the border demarcation. It is to be recalled that the workshop is being attended by a big number of concerned personalities, university lecturers and experts in the fields of survey and border demarcation.

Sudan's SPLM northern sector member blames leaders for political marginalization

A leading member of the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) Northern Sector accused a group within the movement; he refused to name, of striving to marginalize the movement together with its Liberation Council, managing the movement's affairs away from the others. He added, "That group adopts taking crucial decisions without referring to the institution approved by the SPLM Manifesto." In a statement to Sudan Vision, the SPLM Leadership member, Dr. Mohammed Yusuf Al-Mustafa said a minority had continued to steer the movement affairs and the Liberation Council which is supposed to be higher on the echelon had been subjected to marginalization practiced by some of leaders. He added that due to these circumstances the Council failed to convene its fifth meeting for deciding on key issues that concern the movement.

Al-Mustafa added that the SPLM constitution stipulates that two third of the Council members should be southerners and the remaining third from the north. But institutions have been marginalized. "By all standards South Sudan secession will lead to disaster not in the south alone, but in the whole Sudan," said Al- Mustafa, adding that separation will not resolve the issue nor will it lead Sudan towards betterment, as the solution remains in the unity of the country on new basis and democratic approach away from the gun barrel. Moreover, he stressed the importance of distancing foreign powers from the unity/separation issue as those parties have their own agendas they want to effect through secession or otherwise. He called on the Sudanese people to adopt dialogue and consultation for resolving

national issues and excluding foreign intervention in local affairs. According to Al-Mustafa the Sudanese political powers have gone stray, marginalized the Sudanese people and become steered by few individuals. He added that they should work collectively for settling the Sudanese crisis. It is noted that Al-Mustafa is considered one of the most active cadres in the SPLM Northern Sector as the movement selected him federal minister of Labor within its ministerial portfolio share. *Text of report in English by Sudanese government newspaper Sudan Vision website on 1 November*

Over 300 members of Sudan ruling party defect to SPLM

Over 300 National Congress Party (NCP) members have joined Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in an occasion organized at the party's office in Juba. The Defectors were led by Paul Majok Deng and Thomas Bai Malek from Greater Bahr el Ghazal, and Alfred Barakat Manga from Western Equatoria. Acting on behalf of the Secretary General, Antipas Nyok welcomed the new members as a victory to the people of Southern Sudan because it cements unity of the Southern Sudanese people. Nyok said the mass defection from National Congress Party (NCP) is a sign that enemies of peace have been defeated as their strategy to return Sudan to war has been exposed. "Unity of people of Southern Sudan will continue to flourish and the rest of Sudanese people will not allow any agitation by war mongers to push the country to destruction. He welcomed them to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) saying that the party does not have late comers adding that the party values its members to contribute effectively for the growth of the southern Sudan.

Former Governor of Lake State, Thomas Bai Malek said they left National Congress Party (NCP) because of its cultural orientation policy which defines Sudanese as Arabs and Muslims. He said Sudan has no future under National Congress Party (NCP) adding that Khartoum is planning to divide southern Sudan along tribal lines cause ethnic violence all over the South. "National Congress Party (NCP) does not want full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) while Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Vision is to liberate the whole Sudan and particularly the marginalized areas of the country"

Thomas Bai vowed that after joining Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) he and his entourage will not defect to National Congress Party (NCP) again even if he is appointed the presidential adviser, adding that he joined the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) not to seek job but to participate in the struggle for the self-determination of southerners. Former member of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA), Alfred Barakat said the feeling of Arabs in the north is to oppress the blacks socially, political and economically. He said the years' he spent working with the National Congress Party (NCP) made understood Arab well. He urged other south Sudanese who are still members of NCP to emulate them and join the movement so that they can work collectively to abolish, tribalism and discrimination. *Text of report in English by privately-owned Sudanese newspaper Juba Post on 1 November*

The Wali meets the delegation of the Egyptian- Sudanese Company for Development

The State Wali, Dr. Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha, reiterated that the state government is paying full attention to investment and is providing maximum facilitation to the investors in different fields of investment. This came during his meeting with the delegation of the Egyptian- Sudanese Company for Development led by the Company Director General Mr. Sabri Mohammed Abdulsaboor in the presence of the State Finance Minister and a number of the state government's officials. The Wali also called on the concerned offices to give more focus on Gazala Jawazat area in South Darfur in terms of investment and development. Moreover, he expressed his appreciation for the company's investment in meat exports from Nyala to Egypt, reaffirming that the state has huge animal resources that would qualify it to export meat to the entire Arab countries. The Wali also commended the remarkable Sudanese-Egyptian relationship regarding joint cooperation in the different fields. *Nyala Radio website.2/11/10*

The State Council for the Political Parties organizes a training workshop on the referendum

The State Council for the Political Parties, in collaboration with the International Institute will organize a training workshop for the cadres of the political parties on the referendum process in the coming days. The workshop will be under the theme "Guidance to the South Sudan Referendum and the Role of the Political Parties in the Monitoring Process". For his part, Mr. Mohammed Zakaria Mohammed Zain, the workshop moderator, said that 40 participants will attend the workshop. He also stressed that the workshop will train the participants on how take part effectively in the monitoring of the referendum process. *Nyala Radio website.2/11/10*

The Wali meets the Iranian Electricity and Water Resources delegation

The State Wali met in the state government's premises the delegation of the Under-Secretary for the Iranian Ministry of Electricity and Water along with the TDRA Compensation Commission where the State Wali presented a briefing on security and humanitarian situation, Water and basic services in the state, commending the ongoing efforts exerted by the state government in the fields of sustainable development and implementation of projects that would contribute to the development. *Nyala Radio website.2/11/10*

Wali addresses financial, administrative and development forum

The activities of the Financial, Administrative and Development Forum yesterday started in Al Fasher with wide participation of Executive, Legislative, political, military, security, native leaders, delegations and organizations working in the State. Addressing the opening session of the forum, the Wali Osman Kibir pointed out to the importance of the forum in developing the administrative, financial and developmental performance in the State. He affirmed that life process requires such meetings to assess the past stages and to study the current developments to benefit from the past experiences and cope with development in fields of administration, finance and development. The Minister of Finance, Economy and Civil Service stated that the pivots and the issues tackled by the forum will speed up the administrative, developmental and financial work, and that they harmonize with the objectives of the five-year strategic plan for the State. *Radio Elfasher website.2/11/10*

Al Fasher Commissioner lauds DDRC role in settling peace

The Commissioner of Al Fasher commended the role played by the DDRC in the fields of peace, security and stability. This came during meeting in his office a delegation from the Commission led by Deputy Commissioner and Advisor and the Coordinator for the Small Arms Control Program. They discussed the future projects that would be implemented by the Commission to support the community and develop the areas affected by war. The

delegation reviewed the projects that include drilling wells and constructing schools and health utilities. The Commissioner welcomed the projects affirming that they will contribute to achieving security and stability, stressing the Locality's readiness to collaborate with the Commission in all fields. *Radio Elfasher website.2/11/10*

Wali chairs meeting with UN agencies

The Wali of West Darfur, Jaffar Abdulhakam Ishaq, presided over the second meeting between the government of West Darfur State and heads of the UN agencies at the meeting hall of the Cabinet .Mr. Mohammed Hassan Awa'ad, Humanitarian Aid Commissioner in West Darfur State, stated that the meeting discussed the process of the integrated roles being initiated by the government and the UN agencies to make the arrangements relating to the voluntary return of approximately 10,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from South Darfur IDP camps to their original villages in West Darfur. He also disclosed a plan to allocate residential plots to the internally displaced persons currently inhabiting the Fur Baranga hospital and to provide local materials to build the plots for them.

Radio El Geneina website.2/11/10

Commissioner pledges to realize peace and stability

The Commissioner of Kirenik Locality, Ahmed Ismaeil Al-Mufti, addressed yesterday the citizens in Mournei Administrative Unit. This came as part of the celebration being staged to receive him as a newly appointed commissioner for the locality. Mr. Al-Mufti expressed his full readiness to protect the current agricultural season and has pledged to realize a balanced development in all administrative units of Kirenik Locality in support of achieving peace and stability across the region. *Radio El Geneina website.2/11/10*

Fresh clashes reported in Sudan's Darfur for first time in months

Nairobi/Khartoum (dpa) - Clashes between Sudanese government troops and rebels have flared up again in Darfur, the Sudan Tribune reported Thursday, following months of relative calm in the violence- plagued western region. Fighters affiliated with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and government soldiers reportedly exchanged gunfire in Khor Taan, located 50 kilometres east of the southern Dafur state capital Nyala. While a JEM spokesman spoke of an attack by the soldiers, a police statement accused the rebels of ambushing a civilian convoy that was being escorted by the troops. Details about casualties were not immediately available, although the JEM spokesman told the Sudan Tribune that three of its fighters had been slightly injured. *UNAMID Website.3/11/10*

A day earlier, Sudanese security troops in the capital Khartoum had arrested a journalist stemming from Darfur. At the end of October, several members of a human rights organization and another journalist from Darfur had also been detained. The conflict in Darfur has pitted rebels from the mostly African population against militias of Arabic descent supported by the Sudanese government since 2004.

The International Criminal Court in The Hague has issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide in Darfur. The United Nations estimates that at least 300,000 people have been killed since the start of the conflict.

UN-AU Darfur Mission Deeply Concerned Over Recent Arrests

Nov 03, 2010 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The African Union-United Nations mission in Sudan's Darfur region, known as UNAMID, said today that it was "deeply concerned" by reports of the closure of the office of a radio station in Khartoum and the arrest of several journalists and human rights activists. "UNAMID calls for the respect of all those detained and arrested and expresses its hope for a swift resolution to the matter," according to a press release from the mission. According to media reports, 10 activists from Darfur, including lawyer Abderahmane Gassim and nine members of a local human-rights organization were arrested since Saturday in Khartoum.

UNAMID was established by the Security Council in 2007 to protect civilians in Darfur, where an estimated 300,000 people have been killed and another 2.7 million forced from their homes since violence erupted in 2003, pitting rebels against Government forces and their allied Janjaweed militiamen. . *UNAMID Website.3/11/10*

The Wali meets the UN Under-Secretary General for Safety and Security (UNDSS)

The State Wali, Dr. Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha, met yesterday in his office with the Under-Secretary General for UNDSS, Mr. Gergory Starr. The meeting discussed aspects of joint cooperation between the state government and the UN. The Wali said that the state government is applying a policy that differentiates between the humanitarian work and the political issues. The Wali also criticized UNAMID for non prompt response to the state government's requests regarding UNAMID helicopters flights in emergencies. On the other hand, Mr. Starr said the purpose of his visit is to appraise the security and humanitarian situation on the ground and address the issue of delivering humanitarian services to the IDPs, praising the good cooperation between the state government and UNAMID. *UNAMID Website.3/11/10*

Delegation of National Council for Technical and Technological Education visits El-Geneina

The Acting Deputy Wali of West Darfur, Abdullah Khamees Mohammed, who is also Minister of Education, has reviewed the aims and results of the recent visit of the delegation of the National Council for Technical and Technological Education. Meanwhile, Dr. Kamaleldin Hashim, head of the delegation, asserted that the aim of the visit was to inspect the process of the technical education institutions in the state in addition to collecting statistical data for a number of schools and teachers for training purposes. *E Igeneina Radio Website.3/11/10*

Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resources pledges to provide veterinary services

The Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resources, Mohammed Ahmed Ali Shareef, met yesterday with the delegation of nomadic tribes at Arara village, headed by Ramdan Dajo Hassan. The Minister was briefed during the meeting on the situation of the animal resources and the problems encountered. He reiterated the commitment of his Ministry to

establish a veterinary unit to provide integrated veterinary services in order to maintain the animal resources for the benefit of economic recovery in West Darfur State. . *E lgeneina Radio Website.3/11/10*

UNAMID office in Mournei receives Commissioner of Kirenik Locality

The Commissioner of Kirenik Locality, Ahmed Ismaeil Al-Mufti, met, during a recent visit to Mournei Administrative Unit, with the representative of UNAMID Office in Mournei who pledged to train a number of IDP youth in Community Policing to secure the camps and solve some problems. In a related development, the Commissioner also met with the sheikhs of Mournei IDP camp and disclosed the ongoing efforts to integrate the internally displaced persons into the local community of Mournei through allocation of residential plots to them. Mr. Al-Mufti called on the humanitarian agencies to provide health and education services for the internally displaced persons (IDPs), confirming his support for and cooperation with the citizens of Mournei to provide security and protect the agricultural season. . *Elgeneina Radio Website.3/11/10*

SPLA denies attacking SAF area in Sennar

Radio Miraya 2/11/10 - The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has denied that it carried out attacks on the areas of the Sudan Armed Forces in Sennar. Speaking to Radio Miraya, the SPLA Spokesman, Kuol Diem Kuol, said that militias affiliated to the Sudan Armed Forces headed by Michael Newcol are behind the looting of civilians in the area. Earlier, the Spokesman of the Sudan Armed Forces, Al Swarmi Khalid Saad, accused the SPLA of attacking the area of Zalami, north of the 1/1/1956 borderline; five kilometers in Sennar State. Saad said that the attackers used three Land Cruisers.

UN to hold ministerial meeting on Sudan

AFP 2/11/10 - A ministerial meeting on Sudan will be held at the UN headquarters this month, just two days after registration starts on a referendum that could lead to the break-up of Africa's biggest nation, officials said Tuesday. Despite major delays, which have led to fears of new conflict in Sudan, the UN Security Council is still hoping that the votes in southern Sudan and Abyei region will go ahead on January 9, said Britain's UN ambassador Mark Lyall Grant.

Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague will chair the November 16 meeting, added Lyall Grant who is president of the Security Council for November. "We believe it is critical that the Security Council retains a very close focus on Sudan in these critical months," Lyall Grant told a press conference. He added that the international community would want to "reassert" the importance of the referendums being held on time and being peaceful and credible. The ambassador said the Darfur conflict would probably also be discussed at the ministerial meeting.

Intensive contacts to hold popular consultation in Blue Nile

Al-Sahafa 3/11/10 – The Blue Nile state held a political meeting, in coordination with UN Mission, for discussion on a range of issues concerning the state.

Blue Nile Governor Malik Aqar stressed the need to complete necessary arrangements to implement the remaining CPA benchmarks. A representative of UN Mission told the

meeting that the Mission's efforts are focused on creating an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of the popular consultation in the state.

“The North stands on South's legs” – SPLM

Akhir Lahza 3/11/10 – The SPLM has said that the North “walks on the South's legs”, adding that the North would suffer if it continues to rely on oil after secession. Chairman of the Parliament's Economic Committee Guech Makuej told reporters yesterday that all oil revenues would be ownership of the South and the North would suffer if it continues to rely on oil.

Reaching agreement on Abyei faces challenges – Luka Biong

The Citizen 3/11/10 – Cabinet Minister Luka Biong said on Sunday in an interview on Sudan TV that reaching an agreement with the NCP on Abyei region seems to be impossible. Luka added in the interview that the issue on who is eligible to vote is very important because it determines the outcome of the referendum.

“It is very important to know who is eligible to vote,” Luka said, adding “you can not allow anyone to vote, because this mess up the vote”.

Blue Nile State launches public consultation awareness campaign

Ajras Al-Hurriya El-Damazine, 01/11/10 – Blue Nile State has launched the first public awareness campaign on public consultations with the first campaign kicking off in Dar el-Salam village last Saturday. Al-Sheikh Sheikheldeen, a representative of the local administration, lamented the lack of awareness of the CPA amongst the population.

Infighting in SPLA camp in Kurmuk

Al-Intibaha Khartoum/ Kurmuk, 01/11/10 – Kurmuk town in Blue Nile State was the site of violent clashes within the SPLA contingent in the JIU that left one officer dead and six others injured last Saturday. Sources report that disagreement between two groups in the SPLA contingent resulted in the shootout that continued for some four hours. The injured were said to have died while receiving treatment at Kurmuk hospital.

SPLA accuses SAF of ambush

Reuters et al Khartoum, 31/10/10 - Sudan's southern army accused soldiers from the north on Sunday of ambushing its men on its territory two months before a referendum that could see the south secede. The two armies agreed last week to try to defuse escalating tensions after tit-for-tat accusations that each side was massing troops along the disputed border area that includes the oil-producing Abyei region. "They came into the territory of Upper Nile (state) and ambushed our soldiers ... at 0900 (0600 GMT)," said SPLA spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol. "They clashed with about 10 of our soldiers and wounded one officer and then they ran back to their base."

He said Saturday's clash was a violation of the 2005 peace deal signed by the former north-south foes to end Africa's longest running civil war.

Al-Sahafa quotes Kuol Diem as having said that the SPLA has tabled letters of protest before the JDB on the incident and on what they perceived as non-compliance of the SAF Spokesperson to the agreement that the two sides cease making hostile remarks on the

media. The SPLA Spokesperson described the site of the clash as an area around the border areas of Upper Nile and White Nile State, describing the incident as a “gross incursion of the borders” from the part of the SAF.

He said that a joint committee from the Joint Defence Board has been dispatched to the site to investigate troop activities around the sensitive areas of Gok Bar, Joda and the areas east and north of Al-Renk. Kuol pointed out that in its note to the JDB, the SPLA also noted that the SAF has established a new base in Gok Bar since 26 October but the SPLA has called for restraint from its forces. Sudan's northern army spokesman denied they had any troops south of the border. "There has been a joint committee formed to look into these allegations and we will wait for their report," al-Sawarmi Khaled said. A UN official who declined to be named said they had heard the reports of the skirmish and would be investigating.

Governor mulls expelling SLA-MM forces from West Darfur

Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 01/11/10 – West Darfur Governor Al-Shartai Jaffar Abdel-Hakam says he is determined to order all movements that are signatories to peace agreements with the government out of the state. The governor has accused these movements of causing tension and of hindering the free movement of citizens. He said that his government has already sent note to the Minnawi faction of the SLM requesting the movement to take its troops to the assembly points set forth in the DPA.

Sudan starts oil exploration in South Darfur

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 31/10/10 - Abdel-Hamid Mousa Kasha, Governor of South Darfur state announced Sunday that oil exploration has started in the eastern part of the troubled state. Oil exploration has started in three locations in the eastern parts of South Darfur, precisely Addilla Barbar, Um-Radm Al-kori and Zarqa Um-Hadida, said Kasha today in a speech delivered at the inauguration of the Commercial Real Estate Bank branch in Nyala. The governor also said that local authorities have secured the area ending activities of "armed gangs" referring to rebel groups.

However he did not disclose the name of the firm working in the areas.

