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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

Referendum Highlights

Report accuses SPLA leaders of complicity with defectors

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/3/11 – SPLA senior commanders have traded charges over worsening security situation in the South particularly in the Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity states as well as North Bahr el Ghazal where Dinka tribes are battling each other.

Sources revealed to the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) yesterday that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit had received a report from military leaders stating that some SPLA high-ranking commanders including the Chief of Staff James Hoth are colluding with dissidents and militias for tribal balance and personal interests.

According to the sources, James Hoth has asked Gen. Gabriel Tang to keep his forces and not to fight on the side of George Athor, a thing construed by SPLA leaders as an attempt by the Nuer to take advantage of ongoing conflict to strengthen their influence. The sources added that SPLA senior commanders have advised Kiir to be prudent and to try to win over militia leaders by all means so that they remain under the SPLA command.

SPLA sends reinforcements to Malakal, Athor says ready for war

Al-Raed 14/03/11 – the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) has sent military reinforcements to the Canal and Al-Deleib areas to help securing Malakal.

Renegade General George Athor has revealed that his forces held Malakal town for some time before they withdraw, adding that his forces are ready to wage war on the GoSS.

According to sources, Athor rejected the SPLA's description of the events in the area as tribal war between the Dinka and the Shiluk.

SPLM claim NCP seeking to destabilize the south false –Adviser

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/3/11 – The NCP has lambasted the SPLM's threat to halt exporting oil via the North. "Let them do that today. They will be the losers because they will die. We do not want the South's oil," Presidential Adviser, Salah Gosh, told a press conference yesterday.

Gosh dismissed as fiasco the SPLM's charge that the NCP is behind armed conflict in the South, saying the SPLM is looking for pretexts to discontinue the dialogue for reasons relating to internal conflicts in the South. He attributed the tribal conflict in the South to the differences among SPLM leaders and their support to the defectors – George Athor, Gatulak Gai, Gabriel Tang – adding that all these commanders defected due to the SPLM's mismanagement of affairs in the South. "There is a rumour in Juba about a link between Tang, Athor and Machar," he said.

According to Gosh, a rape of a Shiluk girl by an SPLA soldier was the reason for the latest incidents in Malakal.

Sudan Tribune.com 13/3/11 reported Gosh warned the SPLM that any attempts to carry out sabotage in the North carries the risk of a strong response.

Salah Gosh's press conference in Khartoum came at the heels of SPLM accusations that the NCP is trying to overthrow South Sudan's government through arming and supporting militias in the South.

He revealed that regional and international players are trying to pressure the SPLM to reverse its decision taken yesterday to suspend post-referendum talks in retaliation to the events in Malakal.

The NCP official stressed that his party will not beg the SPLM to come back to the negotiation table.

Gosh alleged that unnamed senior SPLA leaders are supporting General Athor and referred to rumors in Juba that the renegade general along with VP Riek Machar are planning a coup against South Sudan president Salva Kiir. He further claimed that the SPLA committed "genocide" in the South.

The NCP official warned that the North would not stand with its hand tied behind its back if the SPLM attempts to undermine the accomplishments of the North.

Khartoum warns of new Abyei flare-up

AFP 13/3/11 - Sudan's ruling party warned on Sunday of serious violence in the flashpoint Abyei region, a day after the government of the country's breakaway south accused Khartoum of plotting its ouster.

Al-Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed, the National Congress Party's chief negotiator on Abyei, warned of "a lot of skirmishes" unless the southern army withdraws thousands of "irregular" troops from the volatile district by Monday.

But the prospects of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) bowing to the NCP's demands have dimmed.

Dirdiri told journalists in Khartoum that a deadline for the withdrawal of around 2,500 SPLA troops in police fatigues, agreed to by both sides under an accord reached in January, expired on Monday.

"If the SPLA is not going to withdraw the police ... the situation in Abyei might deteriorate, and could prove to be very serious within the coming few days," he said.

Dirdiri blamed the latest (developments) in Abyei on the SPLA-backed forces, whom he accused of killing indiscriminately and slaughtering Misseriya cows for food. The south has repeatedly accused the Misseriya nomads, who herd their cattle south in the dry season in search of water and grazing pastures, of fomenting the violence with Khartoum's support.

Umma Party leading figure warns of civil war in Abyei

Al-Ayyam 14/3/11 – Ms Meriam Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Umma Party leading figure, addressing a

symposium organized yesterday by the Misseriya youths in Khartoum, warned of a possible eruption of a fresh civil war over Abyei, adding the NCP is not doing enough to resolve the dispute over the territory internally.

She said the crisis in the Area took a new political turn and is becoming a bone of contention between two countries rather than two tribes.

Al-Rai Al-Aam 14/03/11 reports that Mr. Al-Amir Al-Nazir, a Misseriya figure, told the symposium that his tribe would disown all the agreements signed on Abyei after 9th July 2011, pointing out that the Misseriya understand the pressures that the government faced in the past from the international community.

"After 9th July, it would be tit-for-tat! We would not be bound by any of the agreements signed" he warned.

SPLM: Khartoum's NCP planning genocide in South Sudan

Sudan Tribune website 13/3/11 - SPLM senior member accused the NCP of backing militias with the intention to cause a "genocide" in the semi-autonomous region as it approaches independence.

Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) made the accusation following clashes in South Sudan that have rocked the region since it voted to secede from the north in a referendum in January.

The National Congress Party's Rabie Abdelati has dismissed the accusations as "ridiculous".

"The country is currently in a crisis. We have got information and obtained vital evidence that the NCP is creating, training, arming and financing various militia groups with intentions to destabilize South Sudan through genocide," Amum told journalists at Juba airport.

The SPLM, he added, has already suspended all form of negotiations and contacts with its northern counterpart until the two parties come to a compromise over all matters at stake. The two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) have yet to agree on many separation issues including, demarcating the North-South border, natural recourses (oil and water), nation debt and assets, citizenship and currency.

Amum also said the government of South Sudan is looking into the possibility of stopping the export of the region's oil through the north in July. He said that the SPLM was considering the possibilities of alternative routes of transport other than northern pipelines.

"The NCP have been arming Arab tribes along the border of the north and south ... so they carry out genocide like they have done to the African people in Darfur. This is what they want to do again", Amum said on Sunday.

He called on the United Nations Security Council to stop what he described as an impending genocide. The UN has a large mission in Sudan to monitor the implementation of the CPA but they are not expected to be asked to stay on in the north after July.

Amum said that the SPLM remains committed towards the creation of two independent states on July 9 and would like to return to talks with NCP but claimed "we have nobody to talk to ... they are already engaged in war."

"We want to see the north and south emerge as two independent states sharing a common border with normal relations based on mutual understanding after the July independence," he said.

The SPLM Secretary General also appealed to the UN Security Council and the international community to investigate Khartoum's actions.

VP Taha reiterates commitment to complete CPA implementation

Al-Rai Al-Aam 13/3/11 –Vice President Ali Osman Taha, at meeting with SRSG Haile Menkerios yesterday, reiterated the Sudanese Government's commitment to complete the implementation of the CPA provisions.

The SRSG, for his part, said the meeting with Taha focused on UN participation in post-referendum arrangements in the Sudan and its assistance to the two parties' dialogue on these arrangements.

Al-Bashir calls for audit of oil accounts

Sudantribune.com/local dailies 13/03/11 - President Omer Al-Bashir has formed a high-level committee to select a foreign firm to review figures of oil production in Sudan during the last five years in order to "refute allegations" of non-transparency in the oil-sector.

The high-level committee would be chaired by the minister of oil Lual Deng, who represents South Sudan's ruling party, SPLM, and include as members the federal auditor and auditor of the South Sudan government.

The task of the committee is to select a "foreign company" to carry out a review of the oil produced in Sudan from 2005 until December 2010.

Lual Deng told the official SUNA that the President had instructed the committee to complete its mission before 8 July in order to "achieve transparency and refute allegations raised by some quarters."

Separately, Lual said that he had briefed President Al-Bashir on the currently-active oilfields whose production ranges from 450 to 500 barrels per day, as well as ongoing operations to improve existing fields and conduct more exploration activities and studies for new squares.

The minister further revealed ongoing arrangements to contract a UAE-based company to carry out an assessment of Sudan's oil reserves.

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