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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Sudan dismisses UN call for SAF withdrawal from Abyei

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 05/06/11 – The Sudan Government has categorically dismissed calls by the United Nations Security Council for SAF withdrawal from Abyei saying it would not react to the threats by the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti expressed doubts over the draft United Nations Security Council statement that he accused “some parties” of altering. “Those who drafted the statement still maintain an ideology of the past,” he said as he expressed rejection to the “condemnations and the language of threats.”

The minister defended the SAF raid on Abyei pointing out that the SAF did not invade foreign territory.

Karti also criticised the United Nations Security Council and the UN troops in Abyei whom he said looked by as the SAF and themselves were attacked. “It was therefore contingent on the SAF to take on its role to protect Sudanese territory,” he said. Any talk of a SAF withdrawal is unacceptable unless new security arrangements at reached for the area.

Also on Abyei, SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled has denied reports that the SAF is to blame for the burning of houses in the Abyei Area. Speaking to the *AFP*, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam*, Khaled pointed out that the SAF is in Abyei to restore security and has nothing to do with the reports of burnings and lootings in Abyei.

Sudan's Bashir strikes conciliatory tone with south

Reuters Khartoum, 03/06/11 – President Al-Bashir struck a conciliatory tone towards the country's south on Friday, about two weeks after the north occupied the disputed Abyei region.

"We were able to arrive at an agreement to end the war that started in 1955, and so there should be no issue too difficult to solve through negotiations," Bashir told members of the ruling northern National Congress Party.

"It is better that we sit and discuss and consult," he said. "We want brotherly ties between the north and the south."

GoSS President reiterates commitment to a peaceful settlement with the north

Al-Sudani Juba, 05/06/11 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit briefed yesterday in Juba a delegation of representatives of the governments of the UK, the USA and Norway on the progress in the implementation of the CPA and on post-referendum issues.

Following the meeting, Tom Gerald, a member of the delegation, told the press that the meeting aimed at discussing the current situation in the country.

On his part, the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Regional Cooperation at the GoSS, Majok Guandong, said that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has assured the delegation of his commitment to a peaceful resolution of the differences between the north and south.

Al-Sahafa reports that the visiting delegation also urged the GoSS to resume dialogue with the north over the outstanding issues.

UN investigates peacekeepers in Sudan

TheStar.com et al New York, 05/06/11 - The United Nations is investigating reports that U.N. peacekeepers stayed in their barracks during recent fighting between forces from northern and southern Sudan in the disputed border region of Abyei, a U.N. official said Saturday.

The U.N. peacekeeping department sent its top military advisor, Gen. Babacar Gaye, to Abyei "to determine the circumstances surrounding recent events," spokesman Michel Bonnardeaux said.

Several U.N. diplomats criticized the peacekeepers from Zambia for failing to carry out their mandate, which includes patrolling and protecting civilians in the oil-rich area. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

A phone call to Zambia's U.N. Mission seeking comment was not answered. Bonnardeaux said General Gaye would be reporting to senior U.N. peacekeeping officials about the performance of the peacekeepers in Abyei when he returns to New York in the coming days.

According to the *GulfTimes.com*, UN diplomats described the peacekeepers' failure to maintain a visible presence in Abyei during a period of heightened conflict—which they said is crucial for deterring attacks—in disparaging terms. One senior diplomat described their performance as "pathetic." Another said it was "terrible."

Meanwhile, *Al-Ahdath*, quoting the SPLM's Luka Biong, *reports* that the United Nations Security Council would hold a meeting next Friday on Abyei. Biong said that the United Nations Security Council may consider some resolution in the event the government of Sudan does not respond to the Council's resolutions on Abyei. He underlined the need to bring all those who had a hand in the Abyei violence to book.

Parties to meet in Juba to discuss outstanding issues

Al-Ahdath 05/06/11 – delegates from the NCP and the SPLM would be meeting in Juba at the end of this month to discuss issues pertaining to oil, Sudan's foreign debts and other post-referendum economic issues. Kosti Manibe who heads the SPLM delegation to these talks said that the talks would be held in the presence of a mediating team that would seek to bridge the differences between the two sides.

NCP's Nafei Ali Nafei sets conditions for interaction with SPLM-North

Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 05/06/11 –NCP's Nafei Ali Nafei has set conditions for his party's interactions with the SPLM-North. In an interview with the paper, Nafei said that the SPLM-North should desist from "advocating for regime change, stop deceiving people of the dreams for a new Sudan and the dreams for a new South Sudan.

On President Al-Bashir's wishes not to stand for re-election, Nafei said that they do respect Al-Bashir's views but pointed out that the final decision on that lies in the hands of "no less than the General Convention of the NCP".

GoSS to sign deal with Saudi company for the construction of an oil refinery

Al-Sahafa Juba, 05/06/11 – Sources report that the GoSS is set to sign within the next few days an agreement with a Saudi Arabian company for the construction of an oil refinery. GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar is currently on a tour of some Arab states in a bid to draw Arab investment to the nascent state, the sources add. Meanwhile the Kenyan capital hosts tomorrow an EU-sponsored investment conference for southern Sudan.

Other Highlights

UNMIS bars civil society from meeting Justice Chande

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 05/06/11 – Civil society organisations have criticized UNMIS for reportedly barring them from meeting the Independent Human Rights Expert Justice Chande who is currently on a visit here. Representatives of some civil society organizations pointed out that only a “very limited” number of representatives were allowed inside the UNMIS offices in Khartoum to meet the Expert.

In a statement, representatives of civil society organizations pointed out that this is a dent in the organisation’s impartiality.

Sudanese president backs away from visiting border region with Egypt

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 04/06/11 - The Sudanese foreign minister on Saturday denied reports that president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir intends to visit Halayeb Triangle which is a disputed border region with Egypt.

This week the governor of the Red Sea state Mohamed Tahir Eila told the government sponsored *Sudanese Media Center (SMC)* website that Bashir will inaugurate developmental projects in Halayeb during his tour of the Red Sea state this month.

But Sudan’s top diplomat denied that Bashir has any plans to visit Halayeb.

"The president will visit the city of Ouseif which is outside the Halayeb Triangle," Karti told reporters following talks with visiting Egyptian foreign minister Nabil El-Araby.

Karti accused the Sudanese media of "mishandling" the report and likewise said the Egyptian media responded in an unwise manner.

"Do not pour oil into the fire and we don’t want the will of the two countries to stop at this issue," Karti said.

The outgoing Egyptian foreign minister on his end said that Halayeb issue does not present any source of tensions between the two countries noting that the area would become a "model for integration".

"We have emphasized before that Halayeb will be a model for integration between the two countries, and we talk in this context and this region does not create any sort of tension in the relations between the two countries," El-Araby said.

"The Egyptian-Sudanese relations have entered a new stage titled sharing common views and pursuing the common interests of our peoples, and the dialogue between us covered all the political and economic issues," he added.

Governor gives powers to Popular Committees

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 05/06/11 – Khartoum State Governor Abdulrahman Al-Khidir has threatened that any house suspected of hosting “immoral and suspect activities” would be closed down. Addressing the swearing-in ceremony for over 2,000 members of the Popular Committees in Khartoum State yesterday, the governor gave instructions that these committees follow up on such issues. He said that members of the Popular Committees shall enjoy the same immunities granted the governor that would include immunity from arrest. He also said that the state has earmarked the amount of SDG100 million for the best Popular Committee.

UN chief welcomes the outcome of Darfur stakeholders' conference

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 04/06/11 - UN Chief Ban Ki-moon welcomed the outcome of the Darfur Stakeholders Conference held this week in Doha where the participants endorsed a framework document as the basis for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in western Sudan.

"The Secretary-General welcomes the outcome of the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference (ADSC) as the basis for reaching a permanent ceasefire and inclusive peace settlement, and sustainable peace and stability in Darfur, " said a statement released on Saturday.

Ban Ki-moon called on the government and rebel groups to sign a ceasefire and to make "the compromises necessary to reach a sustainable peace".

He further thanked the Emir and government of the State of Qatar for the efforts provided to the joint mediation team chaired by Djibril Bassolé who works on the file since two years ago.

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