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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

- UNMIS urges CPA parties to defuse tensions in Abyei and S Kordofan (*Radio Miraya*)
- Fighting inside Kadugli (*Al-Rai Al-Aam et al*)
- Sudanese government soldier reported killed in fight with SPLA (*Bloomberg news*)
- Angry citizens burn SPLA office in Talodi (*Al-Khartoum*)
- Troops to stay in Abyei for now - Sudan minister (*Reuters*)
- SPLM excesses do not help in recognition of the new state – NCP (*Al-Intibaha*)
- AU Commission Chief to Khartoum and Juba on Abyei (*Gurtong.org*)
- SPLM calls for international intervention over clashes in Southern Kordofan (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Labour Ministry calls on parliament to work out solutions to joblessness (*The Citizen*)

Other Highlights

- IGAD boosts south Sudan's human resource ahead of July 9 (*Gurtong.org*)

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Post-Referendum Monitor

UNMIS urges CPA parties to defuse tensions in Abyei and S Kordofan

Radio Miraya Khartoum, 06/06/11 - UNMIS has expressed deep concern about the on-going security situation in Abyei and Southern Kordofan state, and has called on the parties to the CPA to prevent any escalation of violence that could lead to fresh losses of civilian lives.

In a statement on Monday, UNMIS said that looting is continuing in Abyei area, despite assurances by the SAF that they would stop it. The Mission urged SAF to uphold its commitment and intervene to stop the criminal acts and immediately release all civilians that are still in their custody. The statement also asked for unconditional humanitarian access to all parts of Abyei Area to verify whether civilians in need of care are still present, and provide them the requisite protection.

SAF has also been urged to immediately stop its artillery fire from the vicinity of UNMIS compound, adding it was a security threat for the UN presence, patrols and flights in Abyei and created high risks for civilians who may be willing to return to their villages.

The statement also expressed concern about the security incidents that took place on Sunday in Kadugli and Um Durein in Southern Kordofan state.

Fighting inside Kadugli

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 07/06/11- SAF and the SPLA exchanged heavy artillery fire inside Kadugli town yesterday with reports of shots at Governor Ahmed Haroun's residence. Both sides are reported to have suffered casualties. The fighting reportedly broke out while Governor Haroun was holding talks with some senior SPLA members including Yassir Arman.

Governor Haroun said, after the firing ebbed out, that authorities have managed to restore stability in the area. He described the incident as random shooting and not an organised attack. The state's security committee then met and later reported that there is no indication of a pre-meditated, organised attack. The two sides are working together to defuse the situation in the area, the committee said.

Meanwhile, the NCP and the SPLM issued a joint statement yesterday saying that they convened a meeting yesterday and had agreed to adhere to the CPA in Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile areas, to hold dialogue on all the contentious points and to defuse tensions arising from the recent "isolated incidents".

Meanwhile in a statement, the SAF Spokesperson reveals that 7 SAF elements were either killed or injured in the attack on Sunday by the SPLA in Um Durein. The SAF, the statement says, reserves the right to respond "at the appropriate place and time".

Speaking to *Al-Wifaq* daily, the army spokesperson described the recent events in Kadugli as an attempt by the SPLA to bring anarchy to Southern Kordofan.

But SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer maintains that the fighting had nothing to do with the south. He pointed out that this is a totally northern issue involving the SAF and JIUs. "We in Juba could not redeploy SPLA elements coming from the Nuba Mountains to the south," he said.

In a related development, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* quotes SPLM's Yassir Arman as saying that a team delegated by the Presidency to help resolve the security situation in Southern Kordofan State has formed a high committee of the two parties and have agreed to seek common grounds on the

security arrangements in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan areas. He also revealed that GoSS President Salva Kiir and VP Ali Osman Taha are in contact in a bid to resolve the problems.

Sudanese government soldier reported killed in fight with SPLA

Bloomberg.com Khartoum, 07/06/11 - One Sudanese government soldier was killed in clashes with Southern Sudan's forces in Southern Kordofan, the *SUNA* news agency reported, as tension escalates a month before the south's independence.

The fatality and the wounding of seven others occurred when Southern Sudanese troops attacked northern Sudanese forces on June 5 on the outskirts of Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan state, state-run *SUNA* reported yesterday, citing SAF Spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled. SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer said his forces weren't involved in the fighting.

"We don't have Southern Sudanese in that area," Aguer said today by phone from Juba, the regional capital. The fighters in Southern Kordofan are members of the Nuba ethnic group from that state, he said. "If Khartoum wants to disarm them by force, this is the result."

UNMIS Spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk confirmed that shooting took place on June 5 and said troops from the two armies clashed yesterday in Kadugli. He said he didn't have details on casualties or what caused the violence.

As many as 60,000 fighters from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states are members of the southern army and fought for the south in the civil war, according to Fouad Hikmat, the special adviser on Sudan for the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

Angry citizens burn SPLA office in Talodi

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 07/06/11 - Clashes between the SAF and the SPLA in Talodi, Southern Kordofan, left 11 people dead last Sunday. Two SPLA soldiers among a force that had attacked the local market have been arrested and are in SAF custody. The Talodi-Kadugli road was closed to traffic as a result of the fighting. Eyewitnesses report that citizens angered by the situation in the area set the local SPLM office on fire.

Troops to stay in Abyei for now - Sudan minister

Reuters London, 06/06/11 - Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti said on Monday the army would stay in Abyei, a disputed region in the north-south division of the country next month, until it was stable enough to leave.

Speaking on his first visit to London as foreign minister, he denied reports of atrocities by northern government forces and accused international peacekeepers of losing control of the area.

"Nobody was shot, nobody was chased and the doors are now open for them (villagers) like the doors are open for others (to return)," he told reporters at foreign policy think tank Chatham House.

"I've said it before and I will say it now: this is not lasting, this is not permanent and this is not a solution. This is only transitional," he said of the military takeover.

"We have never fought or driven anybody from the area ... the army will be there until we have agreed on the permanent arrangements," he said.

"I assure you there have been no atrocities," he said, saying reports of atrocities were "a fiction" whipped up by "colonialists" and the international media.

British Foreign Minister William Hague, who met Kerti for talks in London, urged Khartoum to negotiate a peaceful solution quickly.

“I encouraged the foreign minister to accept offers of a third-party peacekeeping force in Abyei so that Sudanese forces can withdraw quickly and those who have been displaced can return to their homes,” he said in a statement.

SPLM excesses do not help in recognition of the new state – NCP

Al-Intibaha Khartoum, 07/06/11 – “The state in southern Sudan would not be recognised by the north unless tangible progress is made in the full implementation of the CPA and the Abyei Protocol as well as commitment to principles of good neighbourliness,” Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Samia Ahmed, told *SMC*.

She warned that continued SPLM violations of the Kadugli Agreement and in Abyei do not help the case of recognition for the soon-to-become state.

AU Commission Chief to talk with Khartoum and Juba on Abyei

Gurtong.org Wau, 07/06/11 - The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, AUC, Jean Ping who is currently visiting Sudan, will meet with the Government of Sudan and GoSS officials, in Khartoum and Juba, respectively in an effort to resolve CPA and Abyei issue.

He affirmed he would discuss with the leadership in Khartoum and Juba on ways to de-escalate the tension in Abyei area.

Ping’s visit is to encourage the parties to the CPA to overcome the current difficulties in Abyei through dialogue and successfully conclude the negotiations on the outstanding aspects of the peace deal and the post-referendum arrangement.

Ping travelled yesterday to El Fasher, North Darfur, to meet with the senior leadership of African Union – United Nations in Darfur (UNAMID) and attend the opening ceremony of the 8th session of Committee of Intelligence and security Services of Africa, CISA in Khartoum.

During the CISA meeting, Dr. Ping called on the CPA parties to negotiate and resolve the Abyei issue. “It would be appreciated if you would come up with initiatives that would help facilitate the Abyei situation and indeed all conflict situations in Africa,” Ping said in his written speech.

SPLM calls for international intervention over clashes in Southern Kordofan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 06/06/11 - The leadership of the SPLM on Monday called for immediate international community assistance over armed confrontation it says was instigated by the NCP, to provoke a return to war between the south and north in transitional areas.

Bol Makueng, secretary for information, culture and communication with the SPLM on Monday said SAF troops entered Kadugli with tanks and heavy artilleries and have started attacking civil population in the area with the intention of populating the area with the Arab tribes as had allegedly happened in Darfur and Abyei. “The Sudanese Armed Forces entered Kadugli town yesterday on Sunday 5 June 2011. They entered with tanks and heavy artilleries mounted on vehicles. This is after taking positions at strategic places around Kadugli town, especially at the airport to allow delivery of the military hardware to arm more militias in the area”.

Labour Ministry calls on parliament to work out solutions to joblessness

The Citizen Khartoum, 07/06/11 – Labour Minister Dak Bishop told parliament yesterday that his ministry is not to blame for the 15.9% unemployment rate the country currently suffers. The

minister jabbed out at the quality of education in the country pointing out that it was more oriented towards the quantity, not quality of the graduates.

There are over 5,756 jobs left vacant by southern Sudanese who have gone back south but the decision on who is best suited to fill these jobs would be taken post 9th July, he said.

Other Highlights

IGAD boosts south Sudan's human resource ahead of July 9

Gurtong.org Juba, 06/06/11 - 42 Kenyan civil servants arrived in Juba over the weekend in an effort to boost capacity building of South Sudan's civil sector in different Ministries of the Government of Southern Sudan and the Ten States.

The Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Madam Joshua Rebecca said that, the international mentors are here to improve the skills of South Sudanese civil servants.

The Kenyan mentors began a five days induction workshop in Juba today on priority areas in the civil sector.

Rebecca clarified that, the program supported by the Norwegian government has come at a right time considering the cross-cutting issues the GOSS is likely to face after becoming independent a month from now.

“This program is very important; it's a time for nation building and transformation. There are lots of demands from respective States' Ministries and Counties that need to be addressed,” Rebecca said. “There are several challenges facing human resource departments nationwide due to lack of skilled persons, a key instrument in service delivery,” she added.

The 42 senior officials are a part of the 200 senior mentors to be sent by the IGAD, Inter-governmental Authority on Development countries to South Sudan. “They will be mentoring civil servants in diverse service delivery areas for a period of two years,” Rebecca said.

Nina Schjelderup, Norwegian Consul Development expert told the press that, her government had donated about 10 million US dollars to enhance the two years project capacity building.

The Kenyan Consul General in Juba, Cleland Leshore reiterated Kenyan's commitment to have continued close ties with South Sudan even after her independence.

Meanwhile the UN Deputy Coordinator for South Sudan, Liz Grande also reiterated UN's mission to ensure outstanding South Sudanese institutions that can deliver effective services to the people of the region.

She said UNDP is looking forward for GoSS to receive mentors from different areas of need. “After the secession, doctors, nurses, teachers from different African Union Countries will be arriving to South Sudan to boost capacity building in different areas,” said Liz Grande.

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