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Post-Referendum Monitor

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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

Post-Referendum Monitor

Fighting in Kadugli

Al-Sahafa et al Kadugli; Khartoum, 08/06/11- The NCP and SPLM are trading accusations as to who is responsible for the fierce outbreak of fighting in Kadugli. Fighting continued yesterday with UNMIS reporting at least six deaths. UNMIS Spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk expressed concern over the continued fighting between the two sides and the deterioration in the security situation in Kadugli. He added that a local hospital has received six bodies, 4 police personnel and two civilians.

On her part, UNMIS Spokesperson Hua Jiang reports that the SAF temporarily closed Kadugli airport to traffic yesterday morning and reopened the airport later. She said that UNMIS has relocated some 500 personnel from the UN agencies in the area into the UNMIS compound and noted that around 3,000 other people have sought refuge at the police hospital in town.

Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun appeared on local television yesterday saying that SPLA elements had raided government buildings in the area causing havoc inside the town. He said that his government's efforts to restore security would go hand in hand with efforts to realise peace and stability in the area.

The SAF has meanwhile lashed out on UNMIS saying that the mission's statements to the press, especially on Abyei and Southern Kordofan are "misleading public opinion". SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarimi Khaled said that UNMIS should base their statements on the facts on the ground. Al-Suwarimi especially took issue with parts of the statement in which UNMIS purportedly described recent SAF activities in Abyei as "criminal acts". The SAF, he maintains, has not carried out military activities in Southern Kordofan ... or even in Abyei, he said.

Meanwhile, sources have told *Sudan Tribune* that UN agencies had suspended their operations in Kadugli and evacuated a large number of its staff from the city center.

The same sources also reported that unidentified gunmen had ransacked one of the SPLM new offices in Kadugli and robbed all the furniture therein. The sources went on to say that the city's streets were rife with vehicles laden with heavy weapons and that members of regular forces were rushing to stop any person suspected of being involved in the clashes.

Sudan Tribune's sources also said that the chairman of the NCP's branch in South Kordofan's locality of Buram, Kabti Kuku, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at his house on Monday evening.

The head of the NCP's sector in South Kordofan, Jalal Taor, told Sudan's official news agency *SUNA* on Tuesday that the situation was currently bad after all markets in Kadugli closed down and residents stayed indoors. However, he later added that the situation improved on Tuesday despite the fact that gunshots were heard in the morning.

South Kordofan's fighting has also sparked concerns by Sudan's opposition forces and the US state department, with both calling for immediate cessation of hostilities.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the coalition of mainstream opposition parties in north Sudan expressed concern over continuation of the fighting and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the state.

The opposition coalition called for "immediate stoppage of the fighting and the exercise of self-restraint by all sides."

“All political forces call on the NCP to respond immediately to the demand for cease-fire,” the release said.

US State Department spokesman Mark Toner on Tuesday told reporters that Washington was “deeply troubled” by reports of violence in South Kordofan.

“Unilateral military actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations on future political and security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and neighbouring Blue Nile state must cease immediately.”

SPLM says 17 killed in north Sudan army’s “attack” in Southern Kordofan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 08/06/11 - At least 17 soldiers have been killed and several others have sustained injuries in clashes between north Sudan army and the opposition Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan state, according to an SPLM official.

Arnu Yusuf, the SPLM’s secretary general for information and communication in South Kordofan State, on Tuesday told *Sudan Tribune* that Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) of north Sudan carried out an attack on their premises and a house belonging to the deputy chairperson of the SPLM’s northern sector, Abdel Aziz Adam El-Hilu.

“The Sudan Armed Forces and their police staged an attack directed at our premises today. They wanted to forcefully disarm soldiers guarding our premises,” said Yusuf.

He went on to claim that 14 members of SAF and three armed guards from the SPLA, the SPLM’s military wing, were killed in the clashes.

Not a single shot would be fired in Blue Nile State during my watch – Aggar

Al-Sahafa Damazine, 08/06/11 – The leader of SPLM-North, Malik Aggar, has categorically rejected orders for the SPLA to redeploy south before the end of the Interim Period.

Aggar who is also the Governor of Blue Nile State told a ceremony in Damazine that there would be no return to war. “I would not allow any insecurity in the state as long as I remain at the head of the government here and I would be against anyone, even be it the SPLA, who starts shooting in the area,” he said. He further revealed that has dispatched a delegation to talk with the NCP in Southern Kordofan to help defuse the tension and hopes to soon visit Kadugli for the same purpose.

He further assured that Blue Nile State would never become a launch pad for military activities in northern Sudan. There would be no Sudanese army after the SPLA is reintegrated in the north on the basis of a political agreement, not a unilateral decision, he said.

The Blue Nile Governor also reiterated SPLM calls for the 9th July to become the beginning of a new interim period that would witness amendments to the Popular Consultations Act.

Efforts underway to address the issue of northerners in SPLA in Blue Nile State

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 08/06/11 – Huweida Abdulrahman, a member of parliament on the SPLA ticket for Blue Nile State has revealed that efforts are underway to address the issue of the status of northerners within the ranks of the SPLA in Blue Nile State. She told reporters yesterday that officials from Blue Nile State recently held a series of discussions with the Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, the Minister of Defence and a number of government officials in Khartoum towards that end. The meeting agreed on the need to demobilise

some of these soldiers and to reintegrate some into the regular forces.

Sudan appoints new chief administrator for Abyei area

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 07/06/11 – The Sudan Government has appointed an interim chief administrator for the contested area of Abyei, two week after dissolving the Abyei administration, on 21 May.

The minister at the Sudanese presidency Bakri Hassan Saleh issued Tuesday a ministerial decree appointing Ahmed Hussein Al-Imam as executive administrator and Majid Yak Kuor as deputy administrator.

The ministerial decree provides that the new administration will act under direct supervision of the presidential affairs minister.

The southern Sudanese government contested the ousting of the former governor Deng Arop Kuol but Khartoum said his removal did not violate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as the text is silent on the relieve of Abyei administrator.

Finance Ministry serves termination notice to southern Sudanese employees

AL-Ayyam Khartoum, 08/06/11 – The Ministry of Finance has distributed termination notices to all its southern Sudanese employees. A source reveals that some employees have indeed received their after-service pay already. A southern Sudanese employee is quoted by the source as saying that the decision to terminate them is a political decision. He maintained he would remain in the north until he sees what the post 9 July situation holds for him.

Fuel prices skyrocket in oil-rich South Sudan

AP Juba, 08/06/11 - Southern Sudan wants to control its oil supply after becoming the world's newest nation in only a month's time, but already an apparent dispute with the north has sent fuel prices skyrocketing here and prompted fist fights at gas stations.

Aid groups are decamping from their offices in the capital to the few restaurants and hotels that have stockpiled fuel for their generators, and it's unclear how long even the Southern Sudanese government can now keep its air-conditioning units blowing.

The mayor of Juba is accusing the Khartoum-based northern government of attempting to strangle the south's economy ahead of its independence declaration while the north categorically denies involvement in any such blockade, though U.N. officials and residents say otherwise.

Residents, local media reports and even the head of the U.N. World Food Program in Southern Sudan said the Sudanese government began enforcing a blockade of the main north-south oil routes in early May. [<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/jun/08/fuel-prices-skyrocket-in-oil-rich-south-sudan/>].

South Sudan accuses Khartoum of deliberate closure of commercial routes

Sudantribune.com Juba, 07/06/11 - The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) on Tuesday accused north Sudan's government of deliberately closing all commercial routes to the south.

“The government in Khartoum is not happy to see people of south Sudan living in peace. It says one thing and does another. It is not sleeping. It is working day and night to sabotage peace and development in the area. It has adopted detrimental policies”, says Stephen Dhieu Dau, minister of trade and industry in GoSS said in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* on Monday.

Dau accused Khartoum of having deliberately blocked commercial routes as part of the political pressure in the bargaining on post referendum arrangements and issues including borders.

“The government in Khartoum has directed its security apparatus and other armed groups to intensify monitoring of commercial activities along the border areas. This has resulted into stoppage of vehicles that are carrying goods including food items to the south. Food items are now very expensive and there is also a problem of fuel. They do not allow fuel to enter the south”, said Dau.

Other Highlights

Sudan’s former spy chief slams slow pace of Darfur crimes probe

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 07/06/11 - The former director of Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Salah Gosh chided the government over the lack of progress in its investigation of the alleged war crimes committed in the country’s western region of Darfur.

"Despite the appointment of a general prosecutor for crimes in Darfur and having several cases pending we have not seen them [cases] presented to the courts," Gosh said at the National Assembly during deliberations on a report presented by the justice minister Mohamed Bushara Dousa on the performance of his ministry.

He further warned that accusations by the outside world about the inadequacy of the Sudanese legal system, particularly in relation to Darfur, should not be taken lightly.

In his first public remarks since his removal, Gosh pointed out that Sudan has the qualified staff to bring justice but that the current laws are not strong enough. He emphasized the need for a political will to establish the desired state of justice and the law.

The Sudanese justice minister responded by acknowledging the slow pace of investigations in Darfur but said that war in the restive region is the cause behind it.

Gosh also acknowledged that human right violations took place in Darfur and stressed that those responsible would be brought to justice. But there has been little visible progress on the justice track for Darfur.

Darfur violence displaces 70,000 people in six months

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 07/06/11 - Around 70,000 civilians have been forced to flee their villages in Darfur since December 2010 as result of the upsurge of violence in the troubled region of western Sudan, said Human Rights Watch.

HRW underscored further that despite the growing violence Sudanese government with the support of the African Union and the United Nations is moving towards the domestication of the conflict through the "controversial" Darfur-based Political Process.

"Recent fighting has killed scores of civilians, destroyed property and displaced an estimated 70,000 people from dozens of towns and villages between El Fasher and Nyala, and some ethnic Fur areas of eastern Jebel Mara," reads the report.

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Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200