

12 June 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Sudan's Bashir and Kiir discuss Abyei issue in Ethiopia on Sunday

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 11/06/11 - The Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and South Sudan government President Salva Kiir Mayadrit will discuss the issue of Abyei in a meeting to be held in Addis Ababa on Sunday.

Organized by the head of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) Thabo Mbeki, the meeting will be also attended by the Panel members President Abdusalami Abubakar and President Pierre Buyoya. The Chairperson of IGAD, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, will also participate.

Agenda items for the meeting include Abyei (including the withdrawal of armed forces from the area and the dispatch of an African led international mission to provide security), the creation of conditions for the speedy return of IDPs and protection of civilians, as well as steps towards a final settlement of the status of the area. Other items on the agenda for the Summit include the speedy establishment of mechanisms for joint security management between north and south, and the forthcoming round of negotiations on post-secession economic arrangements.

Ban alarmed by deteriorating situation in Sudan

KUNA United Nations, 12/06/11 – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon late Saturday was "alarmed" at the deteriorating security situation at the border regions of Abyei and Southern Kordofan between north and south Sudan where fighting began a week ago. He called on the parties to show political will to bring peace to the region, his press office said in a statement.

Ban called on all concerned to cease hostilities and provide their full cooperation to the UNMIS and humanitarian agencies in addressing the needs of the thousands of civilians who fled their homes. He welcomed today's meeting of the parties in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to address the situation in Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, as well as other related outstanding security issues, and urged the parties to "demonstrate the political will and flexibility necessary to reach agreements that will bring peace to the area."

In a related development, *Gulf-times.com* reports that the White House urged Sudan on Friday to "immediately" halt the escalation of "reprehensible" violence on southern army positions. "The US condemns reported acts of violence in Southern Kordofan that target individuals based on their ethnicity and political affiliation," White House spokesman Jay Carney said in calling for a ceasefire.

"The government of Sudan must prevent further escalation of this crisis by ceasing immediately its pursuit of a military solution to disarm the SPLA in Southern Kordofan and to dissolve the Joint Integrated Units established under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," Carney said in a statement. "Accounts of security services and military forces detaining, and summarily executing local authorities, political rivals, medical personnel and others are reprehensible and could constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity."

Carney called on the UN to investigate the reports. The perpetrators should "immediately halt these actions and be held accountable for their crimes," he added.

Sudan closes Southern Kordofan airport as fighting with north Continues

Bloomberg.net Khartoum, 11/06/11 - Northern Sudanese authorities closed the main airport in Southern Kordofan state as fighting between the northern and Southern Sudanese armies in the border region entered its seventh day, the United Nations said.

The clashes, which broke out on June 5 have caused an “unverifiable number of casualties,” UN Spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk said today by phone from Khartoum. “Localized fighting with sporadic artillery fire and continuing military build-up were reported during the last 24 hours in the state.”

The remaining residents of the Kadugli are fleeing the town, Zerrouk said, as OCHA reported yesterday that as many as 40,000 of the estimated 60,000 population were displaced as of June 9.

The closure of the Kadugli airport by the SAF “will dangerously hamper UN humanitarian operations in Southern Kordofan,” where the people displaced by the fighting “are in urgent need of emergency assistance,” Zerrouk said, urging authorities to allow “unconditional use” of the airport by UN flights.

The SAF Spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

Haroun vows to punish SPLM’s Al-Hilu

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 10/06/11 – Speaking in an interview on state radio on Friday, Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun accused his deputy of leading “a rebellion against the state” saying that Abdulaziz Al-Hilu and SPLM-North Secretary-General Yassir Arman bore responsibility for the violent events in the state.

Haroun said that Al-Hilu would be “severely punished” for causing the death of civilians during the clashes in Kadugli, saying that such behaviour reflects the extent to which he takes the lives of civilians lightly. According to Haroun, Yassir Arman played a part in re-igniting war in Southern Kordofan by persuading Al-Hilu to side with what he called the “SPLM’s leftists and sons of Abyei.”

Haroun told his interviewer that the SPLM only controls “limited parts” including Um Dorin, 100 km east of Kadugli. He further added that the Al-Hilu had dealt a fatal blow to the partnership between the SPLM and the NCP in Southern Kordofan and derailed the wheel of development in the state.

“I don’t see room for dialogue with Al-Hilu now, but we are committed to it [dialogue] as a means to salvage the crisis,” Haroun was quoted as saying.

In the meantime, the situation in Southern Kordofan sparked an outcry from London-based Amnesty International, which warned that a humanitarian emergency is unfolding in region.

The global human rights watchdog condemned reports it had received from residents of the besieged towns of Kadugli and Dilling that the SAF, as well as Sudanese security forces in plain clothes, had been searching streets and houses, arresting and killing people suspected of supporting the SPLA.

Southern Sudan accuses north of air attack, clashes flare

Reuters Juba/ Khartoum, 10/6/11 - SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer says the SAF was trying to occupy areas near the border in an attempt to control the oil fields. "There has been an air bombardment by northern forces in Unity state, in the morning yesterday and again in the

afternoon. Three people were killed in the morning," Aguer said. The three dead were civilians, he said.

"We are expecting not only air attacks but also ground forces. We know their forces are moving from Abyei towards Unity state. ... We are getting ready to defend ourselves. Our forces near the border are on maximum alert and are expecting an attack any time," he added.

A spokesman for the SAF was not immediately available to comment.

South Sudan calls for foreign military intervention in South Kordofan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 09/06/11 - South Sudan on Thursday called for foreign military intervention over armed confrontation involving forces loyal to its military wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the northern Sudan Armed Forces in the northern border state of South Kordofan.

Joseph Ukel, minister of higher education in the government of South Sudan, told *Sudan Tribune* that the fighting in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan would not stop unless foreign forces intervene.

"There is a need for foreign military intervention because nothing will stop the ongoing fighting in the Nuba Mountains from resuming anytime soon since the government of Sudan as officially announced allowing its forces to drive out SPLA forces from the area", Ukel said.

Authorities in Southern Kordofan net large quantities of arms

Al-Ahdath Kadugli, 12/06/11 – NCP figure Haj Majid Suwar says authorities in Southern Kordofan have uncovered large quantities of arms, ammunition and vehicles that the SPLA wanted to use in an ethnic cleansing campaign through widespread clashes in Southern Kordofan. He told *Al-Shurooq TV* that authorities also found some satellite maps at the residence of SPLM leader Abdulaziz Al-Hilu that were taken through the help of parties he did not name.

Meanwhile Mjr. Ibrahim Rahama of the SAF 614th Engineer Corps says the SAF has found about 20 landmines in a de-mining operation in Southern Kordofan. He also said that other explosives were also found alongside artillery shells in Jebel Tafrei and Ban-Jadeed where heavy fighting continues. The army officer said also that their searches in Kadugli have uncovered large quantities of arms and ammunition in different parts of the town. The situation, he adds, is now calm with SAF in control.

SPLM in S. Kordofan wants new security arrangements, accuse UNMIS of rape

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 11/06/11 - Gamar Dalman, the media adviser to Abdulaziz Al-Hilu, said by phone from Juba that the Southern Kordofan issue is no longer related to Southern Kordofan but to the entire country. He said the NCP of using militias to fight on its behalf as it did in Darfur, adding that Arab tribes in the region are refusing to participate, prompting Khartoum to recruit from elsewhere. On the military front the SPLM official claimed downing two low-flying SAF Antonov and MiG aircraft yesterday in Kauda and Kloud respectively. There is no independent confirmation of these claims.

Dalman said that the Sudanese government must declare Al-Hilu winner of the gubernatorial elections of last May. The SPLM, he says, wants new security arrangements which would allow them to keep their weapons until popular consultations are held and their outcome implemented.

Dalman also directed criticism at UNMIS and accused the Egyptian contingency in the area of raping six women. He said the incident took place after civilians fleeing the fighting took shelter at

the headquarters of the peacekeeping force.

This comes in the heels of a statement issued by Al-Hilu this week in he which he said that the Egyptian peacekeepers are complicit in the attacks by SAF in the state revealing that a letter was sent to them asking for clarifications.

"We are investigating serious accusations against the Egyptian forces, and we have doubts on its role, given its history in the region shows that they are not straight and have abnormal and criminal tendencies," Al-Hilu said. He alleged that the Egyptian peacekeepers turned away civilians who sought refuge and even handed over some of them to SAF who killed them right on spot.

UN complicit in Southern Kordofan – NCP

Al-Intibaha Parliament, 12/06/11- Affaf Tauer, an MP for Southern Kordofan on the NCP ticket, told reporters in Khartoum yesterday that UNMIS was complicit in the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan claiming that there is documented evidence of these allegations. She further pointed out that most of those who were injured were those who took refuge near the UNMIS compound but were not assisted by the Mission.

In Southern Kordofan, a state official who opted for anonymity says Governor Haroun has ordered government officials in the state to resume work today.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Abdulraheem Hussein briefs parliament tomorrow on the developments in Southern Kordofan and the steps taken to address the situation, *Al-Tayyar* reports.

Senior NCP member survives assassination attempt

Al-Tayyar et al Kadugli, 12/06/11 – Federal Minister for Youths and Sports and prominent SPLM figure, Haj Majid Suwar, survived unscathed when his entourage was ambushed by armed SPLA elements in Kadugli. An eye-witness who was part of the entourage said that they came under heavy gunfire when returning from a funeral. He said that SPLA snipers positioned on the mountains shot indiscriminately at civilian and military alike. The NCP figure is said to be on his way back to Khartoum, according to *Akhir Lahza*.

The SPLM has meanwhile threatened to up its military activities and sweep Khartoum. Commissioner for Abu-Gibeha, Musa Kajo, told *Al-Tayyar* that the SPLA military activities in the state were sparked by President Al-Bashir statements in Al-Mujlad on the elections campaign trail. He pointed out that the SPLA is yet to roll out its tanks.

No IDP camps in Southern Kordofan - NCP

Al-Akhtar Khartoum, 12/06/11 – The NCP says there is no way that IDP camps such as those in Darfur would be set up in Southern Kordofan. Hajo Gism-el-Sid, a prominent NCP member and of the parliamentary taskforce on Southern Kordofan, said the government is calling on civil society organisations to assist the people in their homes, not in IDP camps.

There is an agreement, he said, between UNMIS in Kadugli and Governor Haroun that the people who took refuge near the UNMIS compound would return home within between three days to one week. Hajo accused the SPLM of seeking to justify reasons for the extension of the UNMIS mandate beyond 9 July.

Other Highlights

UNMIS to reinforce presence in Unity and Warrap State

The Citizen Juba, 12/06/11 – UNMIS plans to reinforce its presence along the north-south borders in Unity and Warrap States, the Mission's Regional Coordinator David Gressly said.

Speaking following a two-day tour of Mayom and Pariang countries in Unity State and Juajok and Turalei towns in Warrap State, Gressly told *Radio Miraya* thea the situation seems to be calm at the moment but noted that tensions are high in those areas. He added that UNMIS plans to start deployment in shoes area for early warning and deterrence measures.

A senior journalist says his life threatened by South Sudan's security organs

Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/06/11 - A South Sudanese senior journalist said his life has been threatened by some elements of the region's security organs over his usual criticism of the GoSS.

Nhial Bol Aken, the Editor-in-Chief of the Juba-based *The Citizen* newspaper said he was arrested on Thursday night by the police and was threatened to either back down from his activity or risk dying before July 9 this year.

In the painful story he published in The Citizen newspaper on Saturday, Aken said he was arrested on his way from a dinner party organized by the British Consulate in Juba at the Da Vinci hotel in Juba. He said he was released later after several hours in detention.

With tear gas and batons, police in Sudan break up Islamist demonstration

AP Khartoum, 11/06/11 - Police used tear gas and batons to break up an Islamist demonstration Saturday calling for more troops in disputed southern border regions less than a month before the south's independence, a spokesman for the leading Islamist party said.

Saturday's demonstration had the requisite permits and was intended to be a show of support for the north's decision to send troops to Abyei and Kordofan, said Ibrahim Osman Abu Khalil, spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Party. But he said as some 5,000 members gathered outside the party headquarters, officials suddenly announced that it was no longer allowed.

Abu Khalil said seven party members were arrested and two remained in detention hours later.

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