

26 June 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.c



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Highlights

- State of South Sudan would face major challenges – UN (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Rights investigations needed in Sudan border areas – UN (*Reuters*)
- Haroun denies genocide allegations in his state (*The Citizen et al*)
- SPLM calls for no-fly zone over Southern Kordofan (*Al-Ayyam*)
- NCP expects attack from outside after 9th July (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Official: 11 dead in attack on South Sudan town (*AP*)
- Hundreds killed and many cattle raided in Pibor – official (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Ethiopia says would deploy 4,200 peacekeepers to Abyei (*Al-Ahdath*)
- GoSS imposes curfew in Juba in search of arms (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Al-Mahdi wants a “realistic” interaction with the UN Security Council (*Al-Sahafa*)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

State of South Sudan would face major challenges - UN

Al-Rai Al-Aam, 26/06/11 – The UN Deputy High Commissioner Human Rights says the flames are still burning and robbers continue to roam in parts of Abyei. The Deputy Commissioner said that a road trip around some parts of the town showed the area was completely devastated with no citizens in sight. She reportedly told *Reuters* that she thinks a thorough investigation is required into the situation.

The UN official called for access to human rights observers to enable them talk to the people affected by the conflict from both sides.

She further warned that the new state of South Sudan would face major challenges in the human rights domain that are further aggravated by the lack of adequate infrastructure and because the nascent state's capabilities are yet humble. She also noted that the war has left behind a culture where force dominates and such a culture requires time to wipe out.

Rights investigations needed in Sudan border areas - UN

Reuters Khartoum, 24/06/11 - Huts were still burning and looters roamed the main town of Sudan's disputed Abyei region this week, a senior U.N. official said, more than a month after Khartoum seized it and shut down a joint north-south administration.

Kyung-wha Kang, U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, said "thorough" investigations were needed in Abyei and another conflict-stricken border region, where weeks of fighting has forced tens of thousands of people to flee.

Kang said a drive through Abyei's main town this week showed "complete destruction. No civilians. Some huts still burning, smoke, looters still roaming around".

"I think the situation is serious enough that it requires a thorough investigation," she said in an interview late on Tuesday.

The northern army, which says its troops are in Abyei and Southern Kordofan to guarantee stability and protect civilians, has called for Abyei's residents to return home.

Kang said human rights monitors should be given more access to the area to conduct interviews with people involved in and affected by the fighting on both sides.

"We would like that opportunity, but so far access has been very limited," she said.

She said her team had asked to visit Southern Kordofan during a tour of Sudan ahead of southern secession on July 9, but they had not heard back yet.

"Kadugli also requires a thorough, thorough look," Kang said. "The sooner the better".

Haroun denies genocide allegations in his state

The Citizen et al 26/06/11 - Sudan's Southern Kordofan State Governor Ahmed Haroun slammed media reports that SAF is ethnically cleansing some tribes in the recent wake of unrest that hit the state. Haroun stressed that his government is ready to negotiate with the SPLM to end the fighting.

"I recently met a visiting team from the UN in Southern Kordofan State, but they did not mention that a specific tribe in the state was under attack by the government", he said. He added

that what happened by some people can not be attributed to the whole tribe.

Speaking at a teleconference hosted by *SUNA* yesterday, Governor Haroun accused his deputy, Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu of responsibility for the loss of innocent lives. *Al-Ahdath* quotes him as saying that fighting still continues on the western side of Kadugli town as the SAF seeks to flush out remnants of the SPLA holed up there.

Haroun reiterated commitment to the conduct of Popular Consultation in the state.

The governor also revealed that there Governor Malik Aggar of Blue Nile State was in “secret” contact between himself and ex-deputy Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu aimed at bridging their views. Haroun welcomed any such initiatives for stability in the area.

The governor described recent reports of a rift within the ranks of the army in Southern Kordofan as a “desperate attempt at tainting a national institution”.

Akhir Lahza meanwhile reports from Damazine that SPLM-North leader Malik Aggar maintains the SPLA would not be the first to pull the trigger on the SAF as long as he is in charge in the state. “If the SPLA does fire the first shot on the SAF, I would lead the SAF in battle against the SPLA ... and vice-versa,” he warned.

According to sources, Aggar revealed of recent talks in Addis between him and SPLM/A leaders in a bid to prepare an agenda for talks with the NCP on agenda items for on talks over security arrangements and DDR for the SPLA troops in Blue Nile State.

SPLM calls for no-fly zone over Southern Kordofan

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 26/06/11 – The SPLM-Southern Kordofan Chapter, has renewed calls for a UN Security Council-imposed no-fly zone over Southern Kordofan and is calling on the United Nations Security Council to convene an emergency meeting to discuss what it dubbed “ethnic cleansing” through sustained air-strikes.

SPLM figure Gamar Dalman said yesterday that the Sudan government is carrying out a systematic ethnic cleansing against the Nuba peoples of the region. “Sudan Air Force plane carried out some 75 sorties targeting civilians in the Nuba areas,” he said.

NCP expects attack from outside after 9th July

Al-Sahafa, 26/06/11 – Senior NCP official and Khartoum State Governor Abdulrahman Al-Khidir says his party expects an attack on the country after 9th July from outside the country in an attempt to overthrow the regime. He pointed out that the recent events in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur are just a hint of what is being concocted.

Official: 11 dead in attack on South Sudan town

AP, 25/06/11 - Eleven people died after a militia group allegedly allied to the northern Sudanese government attacked a southern town, an official said Saturday. A Southern Sudanese County Commissioner Domenic Deng said that eight members of the militia and three Southern Sudanese soldiers died in a morning attack on Turalei.

Turalei hosts tens of thousands of people who had been displaced from their homes in Abyei following an invasion by Sudan's army.

Last month Deng said that up to 40,000 people had arrived in Turalei, a town just south of Abyei. He said at least 80,000 people have fled Abyei, a zone about the size of Connecticut which northern Sudan invaded late May.

Col. Philip Aguer, a military spokesman for the southern army, said the attacks are part of a plan by the north to take over oil rich areas in the south before it gains independence next month.

Saturday's attack was allegedly carried out by rebels allied to Gen. Peter Gadet, who defected from the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army, Deng said. He claimed Gadet is on the payroll of the Khartoum government.

"The attack was actually targeting Turalei here. And their intention is to overrun Turalei," and capture it to make it a base, he said.

Hundreds killed and many cattle raided in Pibor - official

Sudantribune.com Bor, 24/06/11 - Hundreds of people have been killed and a large number of cattle stolen in Pibor County in Jonglei following clashes between the Murle and Lou Nuer ethnic groups the county's commissioner says.

County Commissioner Akot Mazee said that thousands of armed young men from Akobo, Ayod, Duk, Nyirol, Twic East and Uror counties attacked his county on 15 June destroying Gumuruk, Lekuangule and Pibor Payams or districts.

Mazee told *Sudan Tribune* that massive numbers of Murles have been killed. He estimated that since the fighting began on 15 June around 900 people have died.

Mazee further said the well armed attackers had burned houses, raided cattle and abducted some children in the areas. He pointed out that machine guns, hand-grenades, RPG 7 rockets and AK 47 rifles were used.

For his part, Jonglei State's deputy governor, Maar Nyuot confirmed the attacks and condemned it but declined to give a death toll.

Ethiopia says would deploy 4,200 peacekeepers to Abyei

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 26/06/11 – The Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Army says his country is prepared to deploy 4,200 troops to Sudan's Abyei region pending a nod from the UN. Speaking on Ethiopian Television (*ETV*), he said that his forces have long experience serving as UN peacekeepers in different African missions and enjoy the trust of the parties to the conflict in Sudan. He said that the envisaged United Nations Interim Stabilisation Force in Abyei (UNISFA) would be mandated to maintain security in Abyei.

The draft also provides for the deployment of 50 UN Police personnel, also from Ethiopia, to the region.

His statements follow in the wake of a US-drafted UN Resolution two days previous that, once endorsed, would allow for the deployment of Ethiopian peacekeepers under UN command in the Abyei area.

A high ranking source in the Khartoum government says however that Khartoum is campaigning for amendments to the strength and the mandate of those forces. He says Khartoum wants a smaller force under a Chapter VI mandate as opposed to the 4,200 troops under a Chapter VII mandate.

GoSS imposes curfew in Juba in search of arms

Al-Sahafa, 26/06/11 – The GoSS imposed yesterday a curfew from 07:00 to 13:00 as it carried out an extensive search for weapons. The campaign comes ahead of the 9th July Independence Day celebrations.

The search covered commercial and residential areas and vehicles and was carried out by joint groups from the police and the SPLA, according to Agok Majur, a senior SPLM figure.

Al-Mahdi wants a “realistic” interaction with the UN Security Council

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 26/06/11 – Umma Party leader Sadig Al-Mahdi wants Sudan to be “realistic” in its dealing with the United Nations Security Council and the ICC because, as a UN member-state, “Sudan is obliged to recognize the Council and to deal with it,” he said. Al-Mahdi who was addressing supporters in the northern Sudanese town of Al-Damar yesterday, warned of a possible Darfur in Southern Kordofan and possibilities of the country slipping back into war on a number of fronts. This, he warned, may open the way for foreign intervention under the cover of a peacekeeping force or even war on ethnic lines that may cause disintegration in the country.

United Nations Mission in Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

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