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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-referendum Watch

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Highlights

Athor calls on southerners to overthrow GoSS

Al-Sudani 13/2/11 – The renegade Gen. George Athor has called on the people of the South to remove the SPLM from power, saying the SPLM has sold out the southern Sudan.

Athor described the Government of South Sudan as undemocratic, citing differences over formulation of a new constitution.

Nearly 140 die in fighting in Southern Sudan

AP 11/2/11 - Two days of fighting in Southern Sudan between the region's army and a rebel faction has killed nearly 140 people, mostly civilians, a southern army spokesman said Friday.

A former high-ranking southern army member who rebelled against the southern government following April elections broke a January cease-fire by attacking the towns of Fangak and Dor on Wednesday, said Col. Philip Aguer, the spokesman for the southern army.

Renegade commander George Athor's troops captured Fangak on Wednesday, and the fighting continued through Thursday until the southern military retook it, Aguer said. No new fighting was reported on Friday.

Aguer said 89 civilians in the two towns were killed, along with 20 southern soldiers and police officers.

Aguer also said 30 of Athor's men were killed. The Associated Press attempted to reach Athor and his top aide for comment but the phone calls to the remote region did not go through.

"We were preparing for peace and we don't know why he is waging war at the time when war has ended in Sudan," Aguer said. "Meanwhile we still maintain the spirit of reconciliation because the amnesty is still holding. So if Athor stops fighting we will welcome him for reconciliation."

A U.N. spokesman, Kouider Zerrouk, said Friday that the U.N. mission in Sudan "is very concerned about the renewed fighting ... and the resulting civilian casualties."

U.N. leaders have engaged both sides and are urging an immediate end to the attacks, Zerrouk said...

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said Friday it was responding to a huge influx of wounded patients. About 50 patients have been admitted to its health facilities.

"We are mainly seeing patients with gunshot wounds, and many have significant abdominal and limb injuries," said Tim Baerwaldt, head of mission in Southern Sudan.

Medical supplies and personnel have been flown to Malakal, the major town in Upper Nile state, the medical group said.

Kiir to dissolve the government, form a new one in July – Pagan

Al-Ayyam 13/2/11 – SPLM SG Pagan Amum said yesterday that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit would dissolve the GoSS after 9 July and form a transitional government to formulate laws and prepare for elections.

Amum, who was speaking to reporters in the first meeting of the SPLM Political Bureau after secession, said the meeting discussed a range of issues including the referendum results and a road map for the south state.

South Sudan political parties leaders to discuss transitional period on Monday

Sudan Tribune website 12/2/11 - Leaders of all the political parties in South Sudan will on Monday, February 14, hold a leadership forum meeting to begin discussing the post-referendum arrangements leading to formation of an inclusive broad-based transitional government in July this year.

In a preparatory joint meeting on Friday chaired by Vice President, Riek Machar, who is also the deputy chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the secretariat of all the South Sudan political parties converged to prepare the agenda for Monday's leadership forum meeting.

Machar explained that the President of the government of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, had called for the convening of the post-referendum leadership forum as stipulated in the resolutions and Final Communiqué arrived at in October 2010.

In her statement to the press following the preparatory meeting, the SPLM deputy Secretary General for Southern Sector, Ann Itto, who also participated in the meeting, revealed that the agenda for Monday's meeting would include the referendum result and the roadmap for future governance as agreed in October last year.

It is also expected that insecurity in the region, especially which has recently erupted in Jonglei state, and the work on constitutional review commission to draft a future constitution will be high on the agenda.

Itto said it was important for all the political parties to move together for the coming period in order to collectively resolve the challenges ahead. She added that such a leadership forum meeting will enhance relations between political parties in the emerging independent country.

Machar said the Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce, which he chairs, serves as a think-tank for the government as it requires the inclusion of members of all the political parties, civil society organizations and faith-based groups. Invitation letters have been sent requesting organizations to submit names of their representatives.

Earlier he revealed that the government had identified 59 objectives to achieve in the post-referendum period. Among the first is name of the new nation, flag, national anthem and coat-of-arms, which should be ready before the formal declaration and celebrations of independence on July 9.

It was announced by the government official spokesman, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, also a member of the Taskforce that the name Republic of South Sudan, abbreviated as “RoSS”, has already been chosen as the name of the independent and sovereign state.

Other floated proposed names included Azania, Nile Republic and Cush, among others. The preferred ancient name “Sudan”, referring to the color black. The other floated name for a long time was the Biblical name “Cush or Kush”, which researchers say was originally taken from the Turkish language, which means ‘crazy birds.’

Other top priorities among the 59 objectives include strategy to mobilize recognition of the new independent state by member states in the international community as well as strategy to create a strong sense of national identity and unity among the people of South Sudan.

Consultations underway to end UNMIS mandate – Foreign Minister

Al-Ahdath 13/2/11 – Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti said Sudan would not need the services of the UN troops in the South should good relations be established between the North and the South; adding consultations are underway with concerned authorities to terminate UNMIS mandate.

Briefing the media yesterday, the minister said UNMIS mandate will come to an end when the interim period also ends on 8 July.

Al-Sahafa 13/2/11 reports Karti as saying that UNMIS has requested an extension for its work in Abyei and the disputed border areas between the North and the South but the government is seeking to reach an agreement with the SPLM to end the mandate of the Mission on the specified date and to make those areas demilitarized zones. Karti told reporters yesterday that his ministry would exert efforts during to coming period to prevent conflict between the North and the South.

Joint committees between the NCP and the SPLM continue to discuss pending files and are likely to reach an agreement on these issues particularly oil, sharing of assets between the two states, water and foreign debts, according to *Al-Raed* 13/2/11.

Meanwhile, sources have revealed that the SPLM’s request for extension of the interim period to one year was rejected but indicated that efforts would continue until entitlement of all southerners working in the North are settled.

North and South Sudan discussing future of UNMIS

Sudan Tribune.com 12/2/11 - The National Congress Party (NCP) in the North and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) in South are to decide on the future of the UN peacekeeping force that was established to monitor the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum told reporters after a meeting of the political bureau that the future of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was discussed among other post-referendum arrangements that are still pending a disposition with the NCP.

On the other hand, Sudan’s foreign minister Ali Karti affirmed the NCP’s decision that UNMIS’s mandate will be terminated by the end of the interim period on July 9th.

Karti said that the services of UNMIS would not be needed should there be friendly ties between the North and South...

UNMIS chief Haile Menkerios said following a briefing to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that the South indicated it would welcome UN engagement to consolidate peace and capacity building for the new state.

Misseriya object to deployment of joint troops in Defra area

Al-Sahafa 13/2/11 – While the Misseriya tribe has objected to the deployment of joint units in Defra area and threatened to attack them, the units have completed their deployment all over the territory based on the recent agreement concluded in Kadugli.

Abyei Area Council Chair Mr. Charles Abyei said the market in the Area witnessed yesterday limited skirmishes between police and the joint units but they were contained before developing into clashes. He said the incident occurred when a JIU member attempted to enter the market armed but the police refused him access and he fired, causing serious injury to a civilian.

Al-Ahdath 13/2/11 reports that an outbreak of bloody clashes yesterday in Abyei between police and JUIs left 3 traders killed and 2 injured.

Misseriya leader Tibeik Omer Shaqiq told the newspaper yesterday that about 200 traders and 11 women took refuge at UNMIS compound, saying the police is refusing the deployment of joint troops in the area.

According to *Al-Ayyam* 13/2/11, 4 northern traders were killed and seven wounded in an attack launched by the Dinka on a market in Abyei. Abyei Administration said that 103 northern traders were moved to UNMIS compound for safety.

3 northern traders were killed and 20 wounded when police attacked the market in Abyei yesterday, according to *Al-Intibaha* 13/2/11. The newspaper's sources said the situation turned tense after 1500 SPLM soldiers in police uniform entered the town.

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