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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

Sudan reacts fiercely to Uganda's announcement on Bashir

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 06/06/10 – Sudan has deplored an announcement by the Office of the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni last Friday asking Khartoum to send someone other than President Omer Al-Bashir to the African Union (AU) summit hosted by Kampala next month.

"President Yoweri Museveni has disclosed that his Sudanese counterpart General Omar Hassan Bashir has not been invited to attend the African Union Conference," a statement from the Ugandan presidency said.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Muawiya Osman Khalid said that the announcement by Museveni "exposed the extent of ill intention to which the Ugandan regime has descended by announcing what is not in its authority at all".

"The power to invite representatives to African summits is not the prerogative of the host nation but that of the African Union in coordination with the host state," he said.

"Sudan as a member state and the African Union would determine who would represent it. Sudan would never accept such suggestions from Uganda ". The Sudanese official said that his government will demand a public apology from Uganda or else it will request a change of venue of the summit to any other African capital "that abides by resolutions issued by previous AU summits and can host all African leaders without bending to pressure, external demands and without responding to blackmail from any party whatsoever".

The spokesperson added that by this "unbalanced stance which is contrary to the African consensus, Uganda is striking a deadly blow to the African Union itself....it is a unilateral move would lead to split and divisions in the African Union".

But a Ugandan official today again reiterated his country's insistence on excluding Bashir.

"Uganda has not invited al-Bashir because the findings of (the) AU select committee headed by former South African leader, Thabo Mbeki, do not differ with that of the ICC," Museveni's Press Officer Joseph Tamale Mirundi told **CNN**.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) today welcomed the decision by Uganda to exclude Bashir from the summit

"This is a welcome statement from the President of Uganda," Richard Dicker, international justice director at the New York-based group, told **Agence France Presse (AFP)**.

"The trend is African state-parties standing up for accountability and ending impunity" Dicker said.

Dicker argued that Bashir's insistence at an AU summit last year that he could travel anywhere he wanted on the continent has proved to be empty bluster.

"This certainly contradicts the triumphalist rhetoric that Bashir was conveying [at the summit] in Sirte (Libya)," Dicker said.

"I would say that Omar Al-Bashir's travel agent is a very underemployed individual [...] without question, the trend is his world is getting smaller."

Dicker further argued that the announcement from Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni shows the ICC's ongoing review conference is yielding results.

"It is part of the upshot of this conference occurring in Africa," he said.

William Pace, who heads the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), an umbrella organization of civil society justice groups, said he expects the court's force to continue to strengthen.

"This is an example of how the Rome Statute continues to surround impunity for the worst crimes. Year by year, country by country, it shows the statute is working," he said.

Southern Kordofan census to cost SDG10 million – Governor

In a press conference in Kadugli yesterday, Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun said that an amount of SDG10 million has been earmarked for the census re-run in the state, ***Khartoum Monitor*** reports. He pointed out that 75% of the allocation comes from the Federal Ministry of Finance and the balance is being covered by UN agencies. Governor Haroun said that they would use aircraft and tractors to reach areas rendered inaccessible by the rains.

Deputy Governor Abdulaziz Al-Hilu pointed out that the re-run is a vital activity because it is the basis of power and wealth sharing. In response to a question on why the SPLM rejected the census earlier, he said that the SPLM did not reject the census per se but had pointed out that there were certain prerequisites that had to be met.

I do not seek the Senior Presidential Aide position – Minnawi

"I do not seek a return to my position as Senior Presidential Assistant," SLM leader Minni Minnawi told the press yesterday. ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** quotes him as saying that his party would have to first discuss such a move. He pointed out however that his party would not retract from the Abuja Agreement.

JEM's leader and US Special Envoy to Sudan meet in Libya

Radio Miraya website 06/06/10 - The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has confirmed that its leader Khalil Ibrahim met with US Special Envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, in Libya on Sunday to deliberate on the Darfur peace process. Speaking to ***Radio Miraya***, JEM's Legislative Assembly Speaker, Al-Tahir al-Faki, said that Khalil suggested reforming the Doha forum into a neutral one and allowing his return to the field in Darfur.

Faki further said that Gration was 'mistaken' to assume that peace in Darfur could be resolved after the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ends with the referendum. He added that Gration should instead resolve the Darfur crisis first in order to provide a conducive political environment to successfully see through the CPA.

The meeting between Khalil and Gration coincides with the start of Sunday's preliminary meeting for a new round of Darfur peace negotiations in Doha between the Sudanese government and Darfuri movements.

Earlier, President Al-Bashir had said that the Doha forum will not change, adding that this round of peace talks is the final one.

Gration and Abulgheith to discuss Sudan

US Special Envoy Scott Gration travels to Cairo early next week for consultations with Egyptian officials over the developments in Sudan, reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***.

A Spokesperson for Egypt's Foreign Ministry revealed that Foreign Minister Ahmed Abulgheith would hold talks with the envoy focusing on Egypt's views on what assistance it could give Sudan towards preserving the NCP, SPLM partnership and contribute to the preservation of

Sudanese unity.

UNMIS Peacekeepers to abide strictly to mandate – Force Commander

Radio Miraya website 06/06/10 – Newly-appointed UNMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Moses Obi said the mission will strictly abide by its mandate: to be impartial and provide assistance to the people of Sudan, in order for them to resolve their crisis amicably. Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, Obi expressed satisfaction over the achievements made by the peacekeepers.

The Force Commander who visited Wau town in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State, awarded medals and citations to Chinese and Pakistani peacekeepers.

UNMIS employs 15 ex-combatants

UNMIS has employed 15 SPLA ex-combatants who were disarmed early last year in Central Equatoria State, reports **The Juba Post**. The fifteen were among 62 participants who completed a vocational training programme of the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) at the Multi-purpose Training centre (MTC) in Juba in December 2009 and are now employed as masons, carpenters, plumbers, fabricators and welders at the UNMIS construction site in the Jebel Kujur area.

William Deng Deng, the Chairperson of the SSDDRC, said during a visit to the UNMIS new site that other organizations like the FAO, GTZ and the IOM are working hand in hand with the SSDDRC to push the reintegration of more demobilized ex-combatants.

Gunmen loot WFP vehicle in Lakes State

Radio Miraya website 06/06/10 - Four unknown gunmen looted a World Food Program (WFP) vehicle delivering humanitarian assistance to Akot Payam in Lakes State on Saturday. According to Rumbek's Police Commissioner, Chol Alak Ajak, the bandits raided the vehicle after it had stopped along the route due to a mechanical breakdown. The looters stole bags of rice from the vehicle and demanded money from the driver.

Ajak further said that an assistant who attempted to stop the looting and mediate the situation was killed. The driver fled during the shooting.

Ajak said that police and security forces have been sent to the area to rescue the situation, adding that the driver and the assistant's body have been returned to Rumbek.

The WFP office in Rumbek confirmed the incident but declined to comment.

Misseriya tribesmen in Abyei deny having joined the SPLM

A clan of the Misseriya tribe residing in the Abyei area has denied recent media reports that 150 clansmen have joined the SPLM, **Al-Sahafa** reports. In a statement circulated yesterday, the clan noted that a "limited group motivated by personal interests and wooed by money sought to create a wrong image that the Misseriya supported the PCA ruling on the areas boundaries." The clan reiterated their support for the Misseriya position against the PCA ruling and warned the SPLM against pushing the Dinka Ngok to reside in the areas north of Abyei ahead of the referendum. The clan reiterated their commitment to maintaining good neighbourliness with the Dinka Ngok and requested the SPLM to release representatives of the tribe currently in SPLM custody.

Shisha smoking prohibited in Rumbek

Radio Miraya website 06/06/10 – Commissioner of Rumbek County, Dut Makoi Kuok, has issued a decree prohibiting the smoking of *shisha* in Rumbek. Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, Dut considered smoking of shisha illegal because people mix it with drugs. He said that *shisha* vendors in town are doing their business illegally because they do not possess licenses.

Darfur Lawyers' Union calls for release of IDP leaders in North Darfur

The Darfur Lawyers' Union has petitioned the Ministry of Justice to intervene for the release of 6 IDP leaders from Abu-Shouk IDP Camp in North Darfur, **Al-Ayyam** reports. The lawyers are calling on the justice ministry to bring the jailed IDPs to court or order their release. They point out that the Office of the State Prosecutor in North Darfur had earlier ordered the release of the arrested IDPs for lack of evidence and all but the six were indeed released.

Doha venue remains open to Darfur rebels, say peace mediators

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 06/06/10 - Darfur peace talks will resume on Monday after the arrival of government and rebel delegations, announced the joint mediation today, stressing that the Doha venue remains open to other groups to join the negotiations.

The Qatari state minister for foreign affairs, Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, and the Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassole, held Sunday consultative meetings with the Sudanese stakeholders — the government and rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) — on the resumption of the peace negotiations on Monday.

In a statement put out following the meetings the mediation said it discussed with the parties on a draft paper dealing with the organizational form of the talks. It also confirmed JEM refusal to join the negotiating table.

UNSC would not heed to ICC's warrants on Sudan - NCP

Citing the UN Security Council's failure to deal with the hijacking of the relief flotilla bound for the Palestinian Territories, NCP Political Mobilisations Secretary Haj Majid Suwar says the UNSC is "not morally qualified" to decide on Sudanese issues or those of any other state, **Akhir Lahza** reports. The Security Council, he said, only serves the interests of the Permanent members and issues resolutions without considering the rights of African states.

Suwar expects the Security Council not to heed to Ocampo's recent referral of ICC arrest warrants to the Council.

A new independent newspaper is launched in Juba

Sudantribune.com Juba, 06/06/10 - A newly published independent newspaper called '**South Sudan Today**' was launched on Saturday in Juba.

South Sudan Today is an English weekly paper and will be based in Juba and contribute in informing and educating the people of South Sudan about the current affairs in the region.

It was launched at De' Havana hotel with participation of some media representatives and officials of the government.

The papers' first published samples were freely distributed to the participants who attended the launching ceremony.

NGOs citing harassment in Southern Darfur consider relocating

Radio Miraya 06/06/10 - A number of humanitarian organizations, citing harassment from state authorities, are considering relocating to Northern or Western Darfur State, in hopes of better treatment. Miraya's correspondent in Nyala, Southern Darfur State, has affirmed the withdrawal of HuMedica, a German NGO.

According to the report, aid workers say their movements are restricted to IDP camps and that the State's Humanitarian Work Commission has refused to investigate reports alleging that state authorities treat aid workers inhumanly.

The Secretary-General of the South Darfur Humanitarian Aid Commission Jamali Youssif has denied all allegations of harassment. He further said that allegations of restricted movement are in actuality strict procedures laid out to counter kidnapping episodes and protect aid workers. Kidnapping of aid workers, Youssif stated, has increased recently in the state

GOSS official warns against leniency on internal financial reports

Sudantribune.com Turalei, 05/06/10 - A key GoSS official has warned of punitive action against senior administrators who fail to respond to internal queries and monitor effective use of public resources.

Salvatore Garang Mabior, First Undersecretary in the regional Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has in an official circular extended to **Sudan Tribune**, on Saturday, urged that continued allegations of mishandling of funds by public officers is not a result of the absence of financial systems, but rather the inability of some controlling officers to diligently implement existing financial management systems to enforce existing financial rules and regulations.

"The controlling officers should take full charge of their ministries;" he said, adding that the government has effective accounting systems and manpower, adding that this is the reason why internal auditors are able to detect misuse.

He said the Public Finance Act of 2009 and the financial regulations provide clear guidance to the public servants who manage the financial systems.

He further stressed that ministers and undersecretaries should strive to effectively respond to internal audit queries and the controlling officers should be quick to respond. In most cases, senior officials are too relaxed to respond to internal audit queries until the queries are spotted by the Auditor-General and they have to face the committee.

MoH relieves 164 striking doctors from work

The Federal Ministry of Health has relieved from duty 164 doctors due to absence from their stations, **Al-Sahafa** reports. The doctors are said to have left their jobs for a while as they participated in a nation-wide strike in protest over work conditions. The Director-General at the health ministry pointed out that they would not be lenient over issues affecting the people's health.

The Ministry has also promised not to disturb doctors who have opted to return to work. It says some have indeed returned to their stations.

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

GoSS sends message to the UNSC concerning outstanding CPA issues

The GoSS has revealed that FVP Salva Kiir and US Vice-President Joe Biden are set to meet in Nairobi to discuss outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Self-determination and the referenda would feature prominently in the meeting, said Acting GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong.

Biong also revealed that FVP Kiir received a message from US President Barack Obama congratulating him on his elections victory and urging him to make good on his campaign pledges.

Partners agree on the referendum commission

The NCP and the SPLM have agreed that Professor Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil take over the Chairmanship of the South Sudan Referendum Commission, ***Al-Ayyam*** reports. Mohamed Ibrahim is a renowned professor in law and a one-time Speaker of the National Assembly.

Lam Akol: Political freedom main challenge faced by SPLM-DC

Radio Miraya website 06/06/10 - The Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), Lam Akol Ajawin, has said that freedom and political activity in southern Sudan are the main challenges his party is facing in the next phase. Akol said that his party's stance towards unity or separation will be clear after southerners have been educated on the referendum: the advantages and disadvantages of either unity or independence.

He added that there must be a democratic atmosphere.

Akol further dismissed the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) as illegitimate alleging that the officials were voted in by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and not by the southern Sudanese people.

NCP mobilization for unity “too late” – Deputy Speaker Atim Garang

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atim Garang, has accused the NCP and northern political forces of attempting to divide southern Sudanese in order to guarantee a vote for unity, ***The Citizen*** reports. The NCP, he said, is leading a steady campaign against the SPLA through accusing the latter of working hard to rig the 2011 referendum.

He described as “no big deal” the granting of the Ministry of Petroleum to the SPLM in the new government saying that NCP mobilization for unity has come “too late”.

UN assures to support referendum process in South Sudan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 06/06/10 - The United Nations Special Envoy to Sudan, Haile Menkerios, has assured that the world body will thoroughly support the process of referenda for Southern Sudan and Abyei and urged the two parties to the 2005 North-South peace deal to expedite formation of their respective commissions.

Menkerios, who visited Juba to meet with the leadership of the government and the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), on Saturday following his meeting with the Vice President and deputy SPLM chairperson, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, assured that his organization will provide technical and logistical support in addition to playing the role of observer in the whole process of referenda.

He further explained that the UN will be ready to provide any additional support if needed per request of the parties concerned.

The Envoy, who earlier on met with President Salva Kiir Mayardit, said he also discussed with the leadership the formation of the governments in Southern Sudan as well as the national government.

Menkerios, an Eritrean national whose native country conducted a similar referendum on independence from Ethiopia in 1993, also added that the UN body would want to see the referendum in Southern Sudan conducted by the 9th January 2011 as scheduled without any delay.

Menkerios further pointed out that the UN will respect the choice of the people of Southern Sudan between unity and separation in the referendum. "Nobody else has the right to point a finger against the choice of the people of Southern Sudan," he boldly said.

The UN top envoy in Sudan urged the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to expedite the formation of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission so that it kicks off with the task, warning that the time was running out.

Dr. Machar on his part appreciated the bold assurances by the UN body, explaining that the SPLM's negotiation team will immediately resume its task once the government is formed within the next few days.

Machar who also chairs the oversight Referendum Task Force said the ministerial membership of the Task Force would be known only after the formation of the new cabinet.

He added that the ruling party in the South is committed to a free and fair conduct of the referenda in Southern Sudan and Abyei in addition to the respective popular consultations in the two states of Southern Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan.

Menkerios said he would soon travel to the UN headquarters in New York to share his experience in Sudan with member states of the world body.

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