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Media Monitoring Report

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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

Highlights

We will topple Kiir's government before the referendum – Gen. Athor

General George Athor says his forces could topple the GoSS even before the 2011 referendum, reports *Al-Ahram Al-Youm*. In an interview with London-based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, Athor said he was forced to go to war because "Salva Kiir's forces" tried to arrest him despite his acceptance of the elections results. He said he supports the unity of a unified, just and democratic Sudan.

Athor said that for him to cease fighting the SPLA the elections results have to be revoked and a "national government" formed in southern Sudan. He said that some 35,000 fighters have joined his ranks within 30 days and boasted that he is able to confront the SPLA.

Al-Intibaha meanwhile reports that Athor has joined forces with Colonel Galwak Gai to form the SPLA-Independent leadership. The group has called for dissolution of the GoSS and the formation of an inclusive government to oversee the conduct of the referendum "without the interference of the SPLA". In a statement yesterday, the group pointed out that the current government took over the reins of power in southern Sudan following the death of SPLM/A leader John Garang. Their regime has seen the spread of corruption and has sanctioned the rampant looting carried out by the SPLA.

The group has also declared all out war on the SPLA and their support for walk-away SPLM/A members.

Elections re-run in CES and Unity State

The National Supreme Court has announced a re-run of the gubernatorial elections in Central Equatoria State (CES) and Unity State after considering the appeals of independent candidates from the two states, reports *Khartoum Monitor*. No schedule has been announced for the re-run, an anonymous source intimated.

Authorities in southern Sudan arrest attackers of relief convoy

Police in southern Sudan have announced the arrest of four armed men suspected of killing WFP officers on a relief convoy in Lakes State, *Al-Ayyam* reports. Chol Alak Ajak, a senior police officer in Rumbek, said that the attackers stole relief food items at gunpoint and shot a WFP officer who tried to resist.

Gunmen target commercial vehicles in Eastern Equatoria State

Miraya website 07/06/10 - The Governor of Eastern Equatoria State, Louis Lobong, has condemned recent attacks by unknown gunmen on commercial vehicles along the stretch of road between Kapoeta and Ikotos. Lobong appealed to the people to remain calm and assured the public that the government is working to arrest individuals who are trying to create insecurity. He further urged unity among all communities in Eastern Equatoria.

Lobong said on Sunday that security personnel have been deployed to monitor the situation along the roads. He also called on citizens to be watchful of landmines along the roads connecting different counties in the State.

At least three people have been killed and others injured when two commercial vehicles were attacked by unknown gunmen along the Torit -Kapoeta and Torit -Ikotos roads.

Detained journalists released in Juba

The GoSS security and intelligence body has yesterday released nine journalists on bail but said they may be summoned any time if necessary, *Khartoum Monitor* reports. The reporters were released after intensive contacts between the GoSS Interior Ministry, Radio Juba and the GoSS Director of National Security and Intelligence.

The journalists – five from the SSTV and four from Radio Juba – were arrested on 21 May 2010.

SSLA amends salary and privileges bill for post holders

Miraya website 07/06/10 - The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed the amended emoluments and privileges bill for constitutional post-holders. According to an assembly member, Stephen Ajongo Akol, the bill was first passed in 2009 by the outgoing parliament. However, President Kiir has since made amendments in accordance to the priorities of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and in view of budgetary constraints.

UN Calls for LRA's rebel leader arrest

New Vision Kampala, 07/06/10 - The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights wants Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel leader Joseph Kony and his commanders arrested and prosecuted. "It is my fervent wish that the three surviving LRA leaders, for whom the ICC arrest warrants have been issued, be captured and prosecuted," said UN high commissioner Navi Pillay.

Speaking at a press conference at Serena Hotel in Kampala on Saturday, Pillay praised Uganda for setting up a war crimes division of the High Court. Pillay noted that the nature and number of atrocities committed by the LRA rebels in northern Uganda have caused trauma that will take years to heal. The UN commissioner, however, expressed concern that reconciliation, rehabilitation and reintegration of those affected by the war is not fully underway. She urged the Government to pass the national reconciliation Bill, which specifies how to deal with reparation and has legal provisions on victims' rights. "I urged those in position to do so to expedite its passage, as the people in the north need every bit of help they can get," Pillay said. The UN noted that health, education and other fundamental services are still lacking in the region.

Pillay decried the cruel treatment of single mothers, saying most of them became pregnant after rape or their partners were killed by the rebels. She noted that the women are denied access to property like land because of their status. "This is inhuman. I urge the authorities to abolish this discriminatory practice," Pillay said. She said the Government should put in place a truth and reconciliation process to reduce bitterness. Pillay added that the war victims should be compensated and projects started to stimulate development in the region. The UN commissioner also called for an independent investigation into the killings in Karamoja. Pillay cited three violent UPDF operations that took place early this year. "All officers in position of command during the killings in these three incidents should be investigated," she implored.

Pillay said the first attack, which took place from January 4 to 7, led to 13 deaths, including six children and two women. The second attack on January 22 led to six more deaths. The third incident of April 24 resulted into 10 deaths, including five children. "About 25 people more are believed to have died," Pillay added. The UN commissioner criticized the Government on its approach to the disarmament process. Pillay said soldiers round up and sometimes mistreat large groups of people, which has led to fear rather than cooperation.

Authorities slap a ban on news of jailed *Rai Al-Shaab* reporters

The National Press and Publications Council has banned publication of news related to the jailed *Rai Al-Shaab* reporters, *Al-Ahdath* reports. The ban was in response to a request by the state prosecutor citing fears that such news may prejudice the course of ongoing investigations.

Sudan to lift pre-publication censorship on two newspapers

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 07/06/10 - The Sudanese General Union of Journalists moderated a dialogue between the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and two independent newspapers on the subject of pre-publication censorship and managed convince authorities to lift pre-publication censorship from *Al-Sahafa* and *Al-Sudani* dailies as a result, *Sudan News Agency (SUNA)* reports.

SUNA quotes the editors in chief of *Al-Sahafa* and *Al-Sudani* newspapers - Al-Nur Ahmed Al-Nur and Mahjoub Erwa respectively - as having given their "absolute commitment on self and professional censorship and everything that threatens the stability of the country".

Al-Nur and Erwa concurred that the conditions of the country "necessitate consultation between them and the competent authorities so as to maintain stability in the country and the press sector in particular".

The Secretary-General of the pro-government union Mohyideen Tetawi said that they will defend press freedom by all means but at the same time stressed that "the country's sovereignty and dignity is a red line should not be overstepped".

Federal Health Ministry suspends more doctors as strike continues

Miraya website 07/06/10 - More doctors have joined the strike despite threats by the Ministry of Health that they risk suspension. As the strike continues, the doctors have remained resolute and insistent on their demands, even as reports surface about doctors being beaten while in detention. Khartoum State Ministry of Health earlier suspended 164 physicians for absence from their work stations – most of them from the emergency and casualty wards. Another 55 doctors have been suspended for joining the strike.

Spokesperson of the Striking Doctors Committee, Dr. Nahid Mohammed Al Hassan, told *Radio Miraya* that they will not bend to such punitive measures but would continue to push for their demands.

Jailed Dr. Al-Hadi Bakhit's wife says her husband has been subjected to torture and beatings on the head, hands and legs that rendered him unconscious. She said he is in a deteriorating state of health.

Sennar State is meanwhile requesting doctors from Khartoum to cover the state's doctor shortage caused by the strike.

SAF doubts UNAMID figures on Darfur casualties

The SAF has challenged the credibility of recent casualty figures in Darfur appearing on a recent confidential UNAMID report, *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* reports. The report says 600 people died as a result of the conflict in Darfur in May – the largest casualty figure since the UNAMID was deployed to the region.

SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khalid issued a statement yesterday saying that they doubt the credibility of a Sudanese staff member in UNAMID. He said that the joint peacekeeping mission has figures it cites in its confidential reports and that it does not share with the SAF for fear of getting into conflict or clashes over such issues.

JEM urges to evacuate 33 POWs saying some are gravely injured

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 08/07/10 – The JEM has launched an urgent appeal to evacuate 33 Prisoners of War (POWs) it captured during recent clashes with the SAF in Darfur saying some of them are gravely injured.

Suleiman Jamous, the humanitarian official in the rebel group Monday told **Sudan Tribune** they had contacted the Red Cross to transport the wounded soldiers but Sudanese authorities were not willing to give the necessary authorization to evacuate them.

"We do not have the needed medical personnel to treat them and we fear they may die if they do not receive the required attention," said the veteran rebel.

"Due to the humanitarian emergency, we are ready to deliver them at any time," he further stressed.

Sudanese and Chadian forces seal access to the Jebel Moon

A joint Sudanese and Chadian force has sealed the main outlets to and from the Jebel moon area as part of a security deal between the two sides, reports **Al-Sahafa**. SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khalid has revealed that a conference took place recently around the border regions of the Jebel Moon where tribal leaders from Chad and Sudan met to confirm commitment to cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

Sudanese and JLM delegates begin direct talks in Doha

Miraya website 07/06/10 - A new round of talks started on Monday in Doha between the Government of Sudan and Darfur Movements, with the Sudanese delegation beginning direct talks with delegates from the Justice and Liberation Movement (JLM) through a joint committee.

Abdallah Mursal, JLM Spokesperson, said that negotiations will focus on security arrangements, wealth and power sharing, compensations and IDPs' return. He said that the movement's demands on power and wealth sharing are fair and added that reconciliation issues will primarily hinge on security arrangements in Darfur. Mursal stressed that each of these issues will be firmly discussed with Sudan's government in an attempt to reach an ideal agreement.

Minnawi threatens a return to war

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that SLM leader Mini Minnawi has threatened a return to war if the Abuja Agreement, especially the security arrangement protocols, are not implemented to the full. He says the NCP lacks commitment for the implementation of the peace deal. Minnawi, who is currently in North Darfur, has called on his forces to "keep their fingers on the trigger" pointing out that the NCP wrongly believes that his movement is finished.

Speaking to his troops in the field, Minnawi pointed out that the core reasons for the outbreak of the Darfur conflict remain valid.

Drought in South Darfur causes hundreds of animals to die

Miraya website 07/06/10 - Hundreds of animals have perished in South Darfur State due to drought, caused by poor rainfall this year. Speaking to Miraya, South Darfur's Minister of Animal Resources, Idam Abdul Rahman, said animals are most vulnerable during droughts. Cattle owners say the situation will worsen in the coming days as even though rain may fall, it will take several days before grass will appear.

One cattle owner told Miraya that since May 2010, he has lost 73 cattle and 47 sheep, adding that he will lose the remaining cattle as the animals are weak and underweight.

Rahman was regretful about the devastating loss, assuring that his ministry will hold a crisis meeting and find solutions to save the state's resources. Animal husbandry is a source of livelihood for 50 percent of the state's population.

Central Bank dismisses employees over breaches

Radio Miraya website 07/06/10 - The Central Bank of Sudan has dismissed a number of employees and imposed restrictions on staff after investigations revealed that bank staff and clients breached banking rules and regulations. The bank, in a statement, further added that plans are underway to control the currency market and more hard currency will be pumped into the banking system. The rise in US Dollar exchange rates has forced the central bank to intervene and tighten control on the currency market.

European Commission gives €46m for humanitarian assistance in Sudan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 07/07/10 - The World Food Programme (WFP) has received a €46 million boost to address humanitarian needs in Sudan, courtesy of a European Commission meeting held in Rome, Italy yesterday.

Allocation of the €46m is part of the Commission's 2010 Global Plan for Sudan, estimated at €114 million.

Thus the agreement, according to a communiqué, followed series of negotiations between the European Commission and WFP, to provide immediate assistance to the populations in Darfur and Southern Sudan.

"Humanitarian needs have increased dramatically in Sudan, so additional funding is vital. I am deeply concerned about the situation of civilians affected by the recent fighting in some areas of South Darfur, particularly Jebel Marra, and parts of West Darfur. Several thousands of people have been displaced and urgently need our assistance and, worryingly, humanitarian agencies have no access to them," Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response said.

WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran the European Commission's contribution is timely, having come at the start of the hunger season in Sudan; when food stocks are low and WFP needs to build up supplies to meet the nutritional needs of millions of hungry Sudanese people.

"This generous donation advances WFP's critical partnership with Europe in protecting Sudan's most vulnerable people. Make no mistake this contribution will directly help save lives," she said.

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

Al-Bashir nominates members to Referendum Commission

President Al-Bashir has nominated to parliament a list of nine people to the membership of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, reports **The Citizen**.

House Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir revealed that Al-Bashir has tipped Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil to head the commission, Charles Madut as Deputy Chairman and seven other members.

FVP Kiir and Thabo Mbeki discuss the conduct of the referendum

Following talks in Juba yesterday with FVP Salva Kiir, Thabo Mbeki, who heads the African Wise Men Committee, told the press that the talks focused on the conduct of the referendum and the formation of the referenda commissions for southern Sudan and Abyei. According to **AI-Ayyam**, Mbeki noted that little time remains for the implementation of the remaining benchmarks of the CPA.

Separation should be considered a possible outcome of the referendum – NCP

Al-Zubeir Ahmed Al-Hassan has called on the relevant parties to look at separation as a possible outcome of the 2011 referendum and to make the necessary arrangements for such an outcome, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

“We should leave emotion aside in dealing with the separation option and should discuss how best to keep the peace and live as neighbours should a new state emerge as a result of the referendum,” the prominent NCP official said before a parliamentary session yesterday.

SPLM has reneged on the CPA – NCP official

NCP Campaign Manager Haj Majid Suwar has lashed out at recent pro-separation statements by SPLM's Pagan Amum accusing the latter of being in cohorts with Israel and the US in the push for southern Sudanese independence, *Akhir Lahza* reports. He pointed out that those statements are tantamount to a reneging on the CPA.

Speaking at a workshop on Foundations for an Attractive Unity held in Khartoum yesterday, Suwar warned that the NCP may not recognise the outcome of the 2011 referendum if the freedom of southerners to choose freely is compromised.

South Sudan Youth launch mass campaign for separation

Sudantribune.com Juba, 08/07/10 - A mass campaign for separation of south Sudan from the rest of Sudan will be launched on Wednesday in the Juba, six months before the conduct of the region's referendum on independence.

An overwhelming majority of the people of South Sudan are expected to vote for secession in the upcoming referendum to form their own independent state, according to a recent independently conducted survey.

The Southern Sudan Youth for Separation in collaboration with the SPLM Youth League and youth civil society organizations have announced that they will on 9th June 2010 launch a mass campaign under the theme, 'Yes for Separation'.

Speaking on behalf of all South Sudanese youth, the chairman of the SPLM Youth League, Akol Paul Kordit, who is also member of the party's highest political organ, the Political Bureau, on Monday announced on *South Sudan TV* that the event will also be organized in all the ten South Sudan states.

This is to mobilize the people of South Sudan to vote for separation and create an independent country.

Akol explained that the people of South Sudan had lost millions of lives in order to achieve the right of self-determination through a free and fair conduct of referendum and determine their destiny of forming an independent country.

The prompted joint move by the South Sudanese youth leagues is seen as a direct counter-response to the recently reported pro-unity agreement in Khartoum between the NCP and the SPLM.

It was reported that the two parties had agreed to a programme for the next national government, directing the parties to persuade the people of South Sudan to vote for unity in the upcoming referendum.

The agreement, which was signed following the swearing in of President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and his two deputies, Salva Kiir Mayardit and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, was kept away from the public knowledge until it found its way to the surface through the media.

The two-page and four-point document was inked by the former Foreign Minister Deng Alor Kuol

on behalf of the SPLM and former National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), Salah Gosh, on behalf of the NCP. The agreement was received with suspicions and anger by the people of South Sudan.

The agreement came as a surprise to many political analysts and observers who branded it as the work of the NCP to divide the SPLM leadership on self-determination issues.

"This agreement is a betrayal of the people of South Sudan, and in nutshell it was simply an understanding to rig the referendum in favour of unity," said one observer.

The peaceful march will begin in Juba on Wednesday from the Juba Football Stadium and end at the John Garang Mausoleum where organizers will address the masses.

Akol added that such organized mass campaigns specifically mobilizing the people of South Sudan for separation will be conducted on 9th of every month until the time of referendum.

South Sudanese observers say the participation of the SPLM Youth League in the direct campaign for separation, despite the previous tone of neutrality and the recent pro-unity agreement by the same party officials, indicates differences in the party on how to handle the issue of unity and separation.

University of Khartoum launches unity drive

Deans of Colleges of the University of Khartoum meeting yesterday have adopted an initiative aimed at making unity an attractive option for southern Sudanese as they head for the referendum in a few month's time, reports ***Al-Tayar***. The University is expected to issue a statement on their vision towards the issue.

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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