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Highlights

Seized SudanAir chopper triggers new crisis between the NCP and SPLM

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 11/08/10 –GoSS Minister for Peace and SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said the helicopter impounded by GoSS authorities in Falluj County was transporting renegade George Athor's loyalists and accused Khartoum of backing the insurgents.

Amum said they have informed the UN about Khartoum's support to rebels in the region, a charge the NCP has denied. "Some quarters in Khartoum support and fund Athor by various means," Amum said after a meeting with SRSG Haile Menkerios and head of the AUHIP Thabo Mbeki. "We informed the NCP about the need for investigation to prevent destabilizing the South," he added.

Sudan Tribune website (10/8/10) reported that Amum told a press conference in Khartoum on Tuesday that the SPLA on 8 August captured the helicopter after it landed in Falluj airfield, Upper Nile State, on its way back from Athor's strongholds in Fangak area.

"After landing in Falluj, SPLA forces raided the helicopter to find a group of Athor's loyalists, including the third-in-command of his group, on their way back to Khartoum" said Amum, adding that "all men were arrested along with the helicopter's crew".

Intelligence sources in Jonglei State, speaking on condition of anonymity to ***Sudan Tribune***, said that "the former commissioner of Pigi County, James Yor, and other senior military men from Athor's force were the ones found in the helicopter". The sources further added that the detained rebels were wounded and were heading for northern Sudan to receive medical treatment.

Amum has also declared that south Sudan will launch a probe into the case, considering it as "a serious development indicating that some quarters in Khartoum were supporting Athor in order to undermine security and stability in the south and obstruct the referendum".

News of capturing the helicopter by the SPLA was first reported by the subtly pro-government ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** newspaper on 9 August. The paper, which said that the helicopter belongs to Sudanair, Sudan's national courier, quoted "a high-ranking source" as saying that the helicopter was "chartered by Fangak Aid Organization to transport aid materials".

Meanwhile NCP official Spokesperson Fathi Shillah accused Pagan Amum of "launching hollow and false accusations" against the NCP in order to "escape the reality of insecurity in the south".

In statements published by the state-run ***Sudan Media Center*** last night, Shillah demanded that the SPLM intervenes and releases the helicopter and make an apology for the SPLA's actions.

He reiterated that the NCP respects the existing partnership with the SPLM alongside its commitment to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

“Southern state will mediate between Nile Basin countries” – Amum

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 11/08/10 - SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum says a new southern Sudanese state would mediate between the Nile Basin countries and would devise a clear-cut policy with regard to the Nile waters. He said they have plans to implement agricultural projects in cooperation with Egypt and the North, stressing the southern state's rejection of construction of dams on the river.

Asked about the south's capacity to sustain as a state without the North, he claimed that "the South has existed in autonomy without the help of the North since the Addis Ababa Accord".

Political forces call on SPLM to release SPLM figure Telefon Kuku

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 11/08/10 - Political forces have called on the SPLM to free or try Commander Telefon Kuku Abu Jalha, the GoSS President's envoy to Southern Kordofan, detained by SPLA Intelligence in Juba on 20 April. The forces said the NCP and the SPLM are in agreement to keep Kuku in detention, citing Kuku's anti-CPA rhetoric in Southern Kordofan, adding that the detention contravenes the SPLM principles for justice, freedom and democracy.

"We call on the SPLM to release Kuku or put him on fair trial," Meriam Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Umma Party leading figure and member of a national committee for support to Kuku, told a press conference yesterday.

New presidential advisers sworn in

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 11/08/10 - Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, Dr. Ghazi Salah-el-dine, Dr. Mansour Khaled, Dr. Harun Lual and Gen. (ret'd) Andrew Macur Tauer were sworn in yesterday before the President of the Republic as Presidential Advisers. President Al-Bashir thanked the advisers for accepting the assignment.

UN wants Sudan to lift Darfur camp blockade

Sudan Tribune website Khartoum, 10/8/10 - The UN today called on the Sudanese government to lift its blockade of the Kalma IDP camp in Darfur and allow aid groups in as it started running low on food and fuel supplies.

"The Government must resume full humanitarian access to Kalma and to surrounding areas where displaced people have fled. And UNAMID continues to be engaged with the Government at all levels to peacefully resolve the situation and ensure protection for all IDPs and civilians. UNAMID has also stepped up patrols in and around Kalma and is on high alert" said U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky today in his daily press briefing.

"We are concerned about the shortages of food and fuel. Deliveries have stopped and fuel for water pumps has run out. And so, obviously, sanitation is a major concern, because it's the middle of the rainy season" Nesirky added. Kalma, one of the largest in camps Darfur and home of around 100,000 people, was the theatre of bloody clashes between the supporters of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) of Abdel Wahid Al-Nur and others who back the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) who are negotiating with the Sudanese government in Doha.

The South Darfur governor said that he intends to dismantle the camp soon saying it has become a "military base and political platform" for Al-Nur. Frank Donahue, CEO of Physicians for Human Rights, warned that "the camps aren't capable of sustaining life."

"Without food, water and medicine, the people in the camps will begin to die, just as surely as if the government were attacking them with conventional weapons," he said in a statement published by **Associated Press**.

The Save Darfur Coalition called the Sudanese government's behaviour "atrocious" and said its denial of humanitarian aid and threat to relocate the Kalma camp was leaving families even more vulnerable to hunger and disease. The coalition urged the United States and the international community to pressure the government to allow immediate, unimpeded access for U.N. agencies

and humanitarian organizations.

The JEM has meanwhile called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to convene an emergency meeting to discuss what he described as the deteriorating humanitarian condition in Kalma.

"What is happening right now is an ongoing genocide and a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. The UNSC must live up to its responsibilities and intervene swiftly to stop Khartoum from further starving the IDPs" JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein said.

Hussein criticized the UN and UNAMID saying they are "shockingly" silent over the gravity of Khartoum's actions towards the IDPs.

Ghazi renews request to handover wanted Kalma IDPs

Sudan Tribune website Khartoum, 10/08/10 - Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah-el-dine, renewed today a demand to handover to the Sudanese government six people suspected of taking part in last recent clashes inside one of largest IDPs camps in Darfur.

During a meeting with Gambari on Tuesday, Ghazi who is also in charge of Darfur dossier, once again confirmed Government's request to handover of the six residents of Kalma camp.

This demand is "consistent with the law and the sovereign rights," Ghazi said according to the official news agency SUNA.

The Presidential Adviser met today with the press in Khartoum to explain his plans to end Darfur conflict from inside Sudan.

The Presidential Adviser said the center of gravity in the peace talks should be located inside Sudan through the implementation of recovery programs, development and return of the IDPs to their homes. The Sudanese official believes also all the elected organs in Darfur states should be involved in the process.

All these factors according to Ghazi should be channelled towards the Doha talks and towards a comprehensive deal including all the representatives of Darfur political and social forces.

Meanwhile following a meeting with Ghazi yesterday, UNAMID JSRSG Ibrahim Gambari told reporters that the two sides have agreed to hold regular coordination meeting and strengthen cooperation between them. He revealed that a meeting would take place in Nyala today between him, Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Muttrif Sidig and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Georg Charpentier to discuss the Kalma issue.

IDP representatives call on N. Darfur authorities to monitor local NGOs

Al-Rai Al-Am Khartoum, 11/08/10 – Representatives of the North Darfur IDP camps of Abu-Shouk and Al-salam are asking the government to monitor the activities of local NGOs operating in the area. The IDPs claim that their camps are teeming with these local NGOs that do not provide services to the people while they continue to spend money on staff.

On his part, the Governor of North Darfur State pledged to address such grievances be it against local or international NGOs. The Governor did admit that there are shortfalls in the activities of the aid agencies.

Referendum Monitor:

Minister for Cabinet Affairs wants assurances for safety come referendum

Local dailies Khartoum, 11/08/10 – Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Luka Biong, stresses the need that southerners in the north of the country and northerners in the south would remain safe should the south opt for secession come the 2011 referendum. Biong, who was speaking at a symposium yesterday on the Role of the International and Regional Community on the Referendum, also criticised calls by some Muslim *imams* that southern Sudanese have to leave the north if they opt for secession. The minister also said that the Referendum Act does not stipulate that border demarcation take place ahead of the referenda. He warned that any delay in the referendum date may refuel north-south distrust and shade doubts on the outcome of the exercise.

Biong accused the NCP of hampering the formation of the Abyei Referendum Commission and called on the international community to assist Sudan with the debt burden. He noted that the NCP and the SPLM have a major responsibility to safely deliver Sudan through the referendum even should it result in secession.

Meanwhile prominent NCP member Mandour Al-Mahdi who also attended the symposium slammed the SPLM for advocating secession pointing out that the CPA stipulates that the parties make efforts to make unity attractive. He noted that an appropriate climate for the conduct of the referendum would require that the security climate be conducive for a free and fair referendum. He also pointed out that there are 22 contentious issues that experts say have to be resolved ahead of the referendum and these include the issues of nationality and the borders. Mandour also lashed out on the international community for not meeting the pledges it made to shore up the CPA.

On his part, SRSG Haile Menkerios noted that donor funds for development had to go to Darfur. He also said that plans are underway for a meeting between the UN and the federal and GoSS ministries of the Interior to discuss the issues of an appropriate atmosphere for the referendum. He pointed out that the UN is assisting in the training of the SSPS to help guarantee a free referendum. The referendum is however a Sudanese issue, he noted saying that the international community only assists in efforts to make it a fair exercise. He said however that unity would contribute to regional security.

Al-Ahdath reports also that the SRSG also revealed that UNMIS would deploy some 6,000 personnel to monitor the referendum. He explained that the mission has agreed to the deployment of a monitoring team that would have a separate role from that of the mission because the mission has no mandate to monitor the referendum. He said that the role of this team would be to monitor the irregularities in the conduct of the referendum.

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