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Post-Referendum Monitor

GoSS admits deterioration in region's security situation

Al-Raed Juba, 03/03/11 – The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) admits that the security situation in the states of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei have deteriorated following failure to quell the rebellion of renegade SPLA soldiers in parts of those states.

Informed sources report that FVP Salva Kiir held a meeting recently with high-ranking SPLA officers to discuss the situation in those areas. Among issues discussed was the need to dissolve the SPLA Military Staff Council, citing failure to address the security situation in the region.

The officers reportedly said that renegade General George Athor has the backing of some Nuer tribal elements within the SPLA, including Gabriel Tang.

SPLM MPs deny reports of political deal with the NCP over membership

Al-Tayyar et al Khartoum, 03/03/11 – The SPLM parliamentary caucus has denied recent reports of a political deal with the NCP on whether or not they would remain in the national legislative body. Thomas Wani who heads the parliamentary bloc told a press conference in Khartoum yesterday that National Assembly Speaker Ibrahim Al-Tahir had told them about a deal between the two sides that would allow the southern Sudanese MPs three-month pay in exchange for quitting parliament. He said that the issue would be discussed at a meeting of the two sides in Addis Ababa but Speaker Al-Tahir threatens to quit if the SPLM lawmakers are allowed back into the House.

Wani explained that the SPLM parliamentary need to remain in parliament to settle outstanding issues such as border demarcation, Abyei and Popular Consultation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile as well as the situation with southern Sudanese in the north.

“We are here not for the money but for the implementation of the outstanding issues such as Abyei,” *The Citizen* quotes Wani as saying, “... these issues are more important than the money that he gives us.”

“I told Al-Tahir that we still have four more months to try to resolve the Abyei problem but he said there is no guarantee the issue would be solved during that time. It may not be resolved for ever, he told me” says Wani.

In a related development, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* Badriya Suleiman, a parliamentarian on the NCP ticket, defended the Justice Minister's draft amendments to the Constitution and said that the minister's actions were in line with the provisions of the Constitution. “Only through a political decision could the southern Sudanese MPs maintain their position in parliament,” she is quoted as saying.

Police mulls future status of southern Sudanese in their ranks

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 03/03/11 – A high-ranking source within the Ministry of Interior intimates that the leadership of the Sudan Police has resolved to form a committee to look into the future status of southern Sudanese within the ranks of the police. The source says southern Sudanese police personnel in the ranks of the Sudan Police continue to perform their duties with a high level of professionalism. He says the political leadership has not yet issued a decision to stop them from work. The source, however, declined to say how many southern Sudanese are registered in the ranks of the police.

South Sudan is yet to decide on its official Independence Day - Machar

Sudantribune.com Juba, 02/03/11 - South Sudan, which voted in the January's referendum to break away from the rest of Sudan after 55 years of civil war, is yet to decide on its official Independence Day, says the Vice President of the region, Riek Machar.

Machar said South Sudan is already an independent state by the declared vote of the people in that referendum, which he said was supreme over any other decision or law in the process of choosing a final destiny in the self-determination exercise. What will happen on July 9, he added, will be mere formalities ending six years of the Interim Period and celebrating the independence already achieved.

The Vice President earlier explained that the debate would now centre on whether to decide on an official Independence Day based on the revolutionary spirit that sparked various struggles for 55 years, or based on the final decision of the people of South Sudan who chose independence over unity as their final destiny.

"If the day would be decided based on the revolutionary spirit," he said, "there would be at least three different dates to choose from. These would include 15th June [1955], which he said initially resulted to the day of 18th August [1955] of Torit revolt that later on gave birth to Anya-Nya I struggle".

Another revolutionary day, he added, was 16th May [1983] which gave birth to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA), when the forces under the command of late Kerubino Kwanyin Bol rebelled from Bor town.

And if the decision about Independence Day will be based on the people's decision to vote for independence, Machar explained that January 30, [2011], or February 7, [2011], would be the ideal dates to choose from.

NEC receives report from Southern Kordofan committee

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 03/03/11 – The National Elections Commission (NEC) says it is studying the technical report sent by a committee it sent earlier to Southern Kordofan to make a technical evaluation of the voter register in the state. NEC Deputy Chair Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah says the committee has returned and tabled its report yesterday.

In a related development, committees have been set up to look into the legal challenges to the voter register in Southern Kordofan. A judge would preside over the committee that would set down to work starting today and for three days, an NEC official says.

Sudan president orders increase of oil exploration in the north

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 002/03/11 - President Al-Bashir has instructed the country's Ministry of Oil to intensify oil exploration in north Sudan and take on board new investors.

In a meeting held in Khartoum on Wednesday with the State Minister for Oil, Ali Ahmad Osman, Al-Bashir called for widening the scope of oil exploration and assimilating new investors. Al-Bashir also called for enforcing rules and regulations on the companies that do not abide by technical and financial standards.

For his part, the state minister for oil announced that 70% of the ownership of oil pipelines in squares number 1, 2 and 4 - which are operated by the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company – had been acquired by the Sudanese government.

The minister further said that oil exploration efforts were underway in square 9, 11 and 14 in the northern state as well as square 12 (A) on the borders with Chad.

According to *Al-Rai Al-Aam*, the junior minister projects that oil production from the oil fields in northern Sudan may peak at 135,000b/d from its current levels of 115,000b/d by the end of this year. Basing the projections on surveys, Engineer Ali Ahmed Osman expects output from the northern oilfields to peak at 325,000b/d by 2016.

He told reporters following a meeting yesterday with President Al-Bashir that the oil pipelines would fully be owned by Sudan by 2014.

Other Highlights

Clashes continue in Abyei

Al-Ayyam Abyei, 03/03/11 – Clashes between the Dinka Ngok and Misseriya continue in Abyei for the third day running with reports of 9 killed and a number of injuries in Makier, some 12 km north-west of the town. This brings to over 140 the number of dead of injured from the clashes that started last Monday.

“Up until now we have received no communication from the Presidency of the Republic despite the fact that Abyei is directly under its supervision,” lamented Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Deng.

SPLA Spokesperson in Abyei, Wur Majak, said that the Misseriya used heavy artillery in their attack on Makier, killing three members of the police force positioned there and injuring three others in the process. He also lamented the “silence of the Presidency over Abyei”. Majak accused “influential figures in the north” of trying to seize the northern parts of the Abyei area in order to implement certain policies. He accuses the Government of Southern Kordofan State of being behind the attacks.

But Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled denied the charges saying that the SAF did not support any side in the clashes. Misseriya do have firearms that they use to protect their cattle, said the army spokesperson. “This is an internal issue that the SAF has nothing to do with,” *Al-Sudani* quotes him as saying.

Meanwhile, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sudan, Haile Menkerios, has deplored the recent fighting in Abyei that, he said in a statement issued yesterday, constitutes “a clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Kadugli Agreements.” He urged the two parties to expedite implementation of the agreement on the settlement of the Abyei issue, including the formation of the high-level implementation committee as a mechanism to contain such incidents and prevent a recurrence. He said UNMIS stands ready to assist the parties towards that.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sudani* reports that Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun was in Al-Mujlad yesterday where he held talks with Misseriya elders, the local administration and security committees urging the Misseriya to cease hostilities. Fighting would not solve the problems of Abyei, the governor said as he urged the Misseriya to give chance for political solutions. Informed sources report that Governor Haroun would be travelling to Khartoum for talks with the senior leadership in the country on the issue.

Al-Sudani also quotes Bashtana Mohamed Salim, a prominent Misseriya figure, as calling upon

the Dinka Ngok to adhere to the Kadugli Agreement. Bashtana reportedly also called on the Abyei police that he described as “SPLA in police uniform” not to move to the northern parts of the Area. He also called on the two sides to stop the military build-up on both sides and pointed out that failure of the SAF to redeploy out of the northern edges of the Abyei Area is “a sure sign of a veiled declaration of war” on the area.

Scores killed in Sudan flashpoint clashes: officials

Reuters Juba, 02/03/11 - Clashes in two Sudanese flashpoints left scores dead, officials said on Wednesday, reigniting fears for the stability of the country's oil-producing south in the countdown to its independence.

Arab nomads and militias fought southern police in the contested north-south border area of Abyei on Wednesday killing at least six people, the latest in a series of clashes, officials said.

Renegade militia fighters clashed with south Sudan's army on Sunday in the southern oil state of Jonglei, where French oil giant Total is due to start exploring, both sides said.

The rebels reported just short of 100 died in the state that borders Ethiopia. The southern army said the figure was "exaggerated" and it lost 40 soldiers.

The violence has cast a shadow over mass celebrations after southerners overwhelmingly voted to declare independence from the north in a referendum in January.

Rebel leader George Athor accused the southern army (SPLA) of starting the fighting in Jonglei on Sunday and earlier last month, breaking the terms of a ceasefire agreed in January.

"They attacked us early in the morning on Sunday. We dispersed the SPLA forces and we captured a big number of arms. Also we managed to kill 86 soldiers. We lost 12 of our comrades," he said.

Athor insisted he was ready to return to negotiations with the southern leadership.

"I am really worried because the new country will be like a baby born dead. If you start with a guerrilla force fighting the government, I don't see any development that can happen."

The SPLA accused Athor of breaking the truce by massacring more than 200 people in Jonglei in mid February.

Northern Misseriya nomads and allied militias attacked the village of Maker on Wednesday in Abyei, killing at least six southern police, said the speaker of areas legislative assembly Charles Abyei.

Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said the number of people killed in a series of clashes in Abyei this week could be as high as 70.

No one was immediately available to comment from the Misseriya.

David Yau-yau teams up with George Athor

Al-Intibaha Pibor, 03/03/11 – Renegade SPLA colonel David Yau-yau has announced he is joining ranks with General George Athor in their fight against the SPLA. Both renegade groups operate in Jonglei State.

Yau-yau says 3,000 of his fighters have gone to join Athor's forces. He has warned SPLA soldiers from the Nuba Mountains area against being used by the SPLA to fight his forces.

George Athor has meanwhile reported that the SPLA has mustered a large group of fighters from

the Nuba Mountains area to fight the rebellion in what he described as a “serious precedent aimed at drawing the Nuba into a war.”

“The Nuba has concerns that are yet to be addressed,” he said. He advised them not to heed to the SPLA calls to “... join a war they are not party to.”

SSLA suspends deliberation on draft budget

The Citizen Juba, 03/03/11 – The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) has suspended until further notice deliberations on the draft budget in its second reading yesterday. SSLA Speaker James Wani Igga ordered closure of the session due to what he called a “mess in the document distributed before parliament.”

The Speaker ordered the parliamentary committee on Development, Economy and Finance to make amendments to the report and table a final draft.

Parliament accuses Libyan leader of backing JEM attack on Omdurman

Al-Sudani The National Assembly, 03/03/11 – Parliament has officially accused the Libyan government of attempting to topple the government in Sudan through support to rebel groups. Al-Tijani Mustafa, the Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations, told the press yesterday the weapons seized during the JEM attack on Omdurman was Libyan make. He said that the regime in Libya was backing activities against the government in Sudan and was hampering the Darfur peace process.

He says the Sudan government had earlier asked Libya to stop support for the Sudanese rebels and to stop harbouring their leaders.

Al-Tijani called on the armed groups in Darfur to come to the negotiations table before they “lose their bases in Darfur the same way they lost their bases in Chad.”

SLM rebels want to meet UNAMID over deteriorating situation in Darfur

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 02/03/11 - The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdulwahid Al-Nur says they want to meet with the UNAMID political and military leaderships to discuss the deteriorating situation of civilians and displaced persons in Darfur.

"The leadership of the Sudan Liberation Movement wants to meet with the Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari and the Force Commander Patrick Nyamvumba to discuss cooperation on issues related to the protection of civilians and humanitarian access," said SLM spokesperson Nimir Abdel-Rahman.

The rebel official said the continued attacks by government in Darfur generally and in Jebel Marra particularly since last July forced 500,000 civilians to flee their villages. He also said 250 civilians were killed by the regular forces and the militiamen.

UNAMID reported today that a 16-year-old girl was killed and three other people were wounded during an attack carried out by unknown gunmen on Um Dersay camp for IDPs located 10 km south of Shangil Tobayai in North Darfur.

Nimir further said the need to provide security and humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable villagers will top the agenda of the talks with the peacekeeping mission.

Such cooperation will help the peacekeepers and the aid groups to reach civilians in the SLM controlled areas, he said.

Sudan says referendum in Darfur is good for peace as rebels see big blow

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 02/03/11 - A referendum on the special status of Darfur region will push the ongoing efforts to end the eight year conflict, said the Sudanese presidential adviser entrusted with Darfur file following a two day visit to the venue of peace talks with the rebel groups.

However, the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) declared from Doha that they consider this step as a serious blow and setback to the ongoing Darfur political talks in Qatar. JEM further accused the government of seeking to impose a *de facto* situation for a matter that was still under discussion.

"The government will organize a referendum administratively limited to consult the Darfurians residing in the region to decide, democratically and fairly, on whether they want Darfur to have the same administrative system as the rest of the Sudan or a particular status," said Ghazi after his return from Doha on Wednesday.

The answer to this question will push the ongoing efforts for peace in Darfur, he further said.

The government said planning to launch this month an internal process for dialogue among tribal forces, civil society groups, and officials from the elected institutions. According to the government peace strategy, displaced civilians and refugees will encouraged to return to their villages.

JEM rebels rejected the announcement made by the Sudanese official on the unilateral organization of the referendum.

"The nature and the timing of this announcement by the Regime, is yet another attempt to undermine the efforts of the Mediation and the international community in achieving a just, comprehensive and inclusive peaceful and political settlements in Darfur," said JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam from Doha.

He further urged the "Mediation and State of Qatar, the host country, to declare its clear position on this reckless and destructive step".

Sudan shrugs off Burundi's signing of new Nile water deal

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 03/03/11 - Burundi's joining of a new agreement to alter shares of the Nile River's water was "expected", Sudan's Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources said on Wednesday, reiterating his country's rejection to the pact.

The new agreement was signed after 13 years of failure in talks between the Nile basin countries to reach an agreement guaranteeing an equitable use of Nile water.

Burundi on Monday signed up to the new pact known as the Nile Basin Initiative, rendering it ready to go into effect pending ratification by local parliaments in the countries that signed it.

Sudan's minister of irrigation and water resources, Kamal Ali Mohamed, said in statements carried on Wednesday by the country's official news agency SUNA that Burundi's joining of the agreement was "expected." The minister went on to say that Sudan's stance towards the new deal remains unchanged because it ignores the existing rights and does not enjoy consensus by all Nile basin countries.

National Communications Council intensifies monitoring of internet cafes

Al-Tayyar Khartoum, 03/03/11 – The National Communications Council has intensified monitoring of internet cafes. An informed source reports that the campaigns have uncovered a large number of “harmful pornographic materials”.

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