

06 Mar 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Monitor

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Presidency to look into the Abyei issue within 48 hours

Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 06/03/11 – A meeting of the CPA partners held at the UNMIS offices in Abyei yesterday culminated in agreement to table a report on the recent violent incidents in the area to the Presidency to look into within 48 hours for a final solution. The two sides also agreed to abide by the provisions of the Kadugli Agreement for the immediate withdrawal of the southern Sudan police from the Abyei area and on mechanisms for the payment of blood-money. As per the agreement, the JIUs would be responsible for security in the Abyei Area while the two parties would be responsible for reining in their people.

Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud told a meeting with Misseriya leaders in Al-Mujlad yesterday that the Presidency is very much concerned with the Abyei issue. He said the Kadugli Agreement is a mechanism that would help the parties maintain peace until a final political settlement is reached on the issue in the near future. He called on them to give the political leadership time to find lasting solutions to the problem.

CPA Parties Set Up Joint Committee to Address Security in Abyei

AllAfrica.com Abyei, 04/03/11 — The Parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement adopted a number of measures to calm the situation and to avoid further deterioration in Abyei. The stakeholders also agreed on the need for a quick political solution.

"The meeting addressed the immediate security situation in Abyei and adopted specific steps to ensure the implementation of the Kadugli Agreements of 13 and 17 January, said the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in a statement released on Friday.

The adopted measures "include establishing a standing committee consisting of representatives from the two parties, the two armies, the two police forces and security services as well as the command of the JIUs."

The Governor of Southern Kordofan stated that the meeting agreed that a political solution is the only way to solve the issue of Abyei. He further said that the standing committee will meet within 48 hours as the high level joint mechanism will meet again with 10 days.

Hosted by the UNMIS, the meeting was attended from Khartoum side by Salah Gosh, Presidential adviser for security affairs, minister of the Interior Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid and the governor of Southern Kordofan Ahmed Harun. While the Southern Sudan government was represented by Nhial Deng Nhial, minister of SPLA affairs, Deng Alor GOSS minister of international cooperation; and Kual Deng the deputy director of GOSS security service, all are from the disputed region.

"The purpose of our visit is to come and assess the general security situation and deliver a message of assurance from the President of the Government of South Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the commitment of the entire SPLM leadership to resolving the issue of Abyei before July 9, said Deng Alor after the meeting.

"We said this in the meeting and it was resolved to end hostilities with immediate effective and embark on ways to resolve political disputes in the area at the higher level. The United Nations together with local police and Joint Integrated [Units] representing Sudan People Liberation Army and Sudan Armed Forces have been mandated to increase patrols in areas under Abyei", Alor further said.

The visit of the South Sudan government high level delegation coincided with a demonstration staged by local residents of Abyei on Friday. The angered protesters called on the international community to ensure immediate stoppage of the killings and the full implementation of the Abyei protocol without any concessions.

The demonstrators destroyed some UN vehicles while the meeting between officials from north and South Sudan taking place inside the UN compound in Abyei.

Speaking to the protestors outside camp of the United Nations Mission in Sudan in Abyei, Deng Alor reassured them saying that the people and the government of south Sudan are behind the people of Abyei.

"President Salva Kiir Mayardit and all the people of south Sudan are with you seeking ways to resolve dispute in Abyei. We have all the options", said Alor, without going into details.

The senior SPLM member advised demonstrators not to behave violently toward United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) office in the area even if they think UN is not helping them. "Try to control your angers and respect them even if you think they are not helping you", said Alor.

SPLA in police uniform in Abyei - SAF

Al-Rai Al-Aam Abyei, 06/03/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarimi Khaled told *Al-Rai Al-Aam* yesterday that UNMIS and the joint military units are in charge of monitoring the peace in their areas of operation and none have reported violations on the part of he SAF. He accused the SPLA of violating the Kadugli Agreement and of donning her soldiers in police uniform. He said the SPLA caused the recent tensions in Abyei to “cover up for its hosting of Darfur rebel elements in the south.”

Meanwhile, the UN sponsored a meeting recently with the parties to the Abyei conflict that resulted in agreement on the formation of a permanent committee composed of the UN and the JIUs to monitor the situation on the ground.

GoSS Minister for Regional Cooperation, Deng Alor, had earlier told a Saudi-based newspaper that the SPLM had thousands of options to choose from to resolve the Abyei problem but is restraining itself as a show of commitment to the agreements signed. He pointed out that the government in the south could have moved those same people used by the north in Abyei and “then we would see how Abyei could be part of northern Sudan.”

Alor claimed that they were in possession of some documents from within the NCP and the Misseriya leadership on the north’s plot on Abyei.

Scores flee Abyei violence as Misseriya threatens to enter area “by force”

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 05/03/11 - The surge of violence in Sudan’s disputed area of Abyei has forced thousands to flee, aid groups said, as south Sudan accused an unknown militia of burning a village in the area, and north Sudan-allied Misseriya tribe threatens to enter Abyei “by force” within 10 days.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Friday that tens of thousands of people had left Abyei town “mostly empty” as tension in the area exacerbated after violent clashes this week killed at least 100 people.

The confrontations highlighted the tension associated with the onset of the migration season in which Misseriya tribesmen traverse the borders into Abyei, which is mainly populated by the south-linked Dinka Ngok people, to search for pastures.

Meanwhile, the United Nation Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which is mandated to monitor the 2005's peace deal that ended civil war between north and south Sudan, deployed extra 100 peacekeepers in the area to reinforce the existing force.

Chieftains of the Misseriya tribe have meanwhile promised north Sudan officials in a meeting held in Al-Mujlad town on Saturday to seek calm with the south in order to reach a lasting solution to Abyei but warned they would enter Abyei "by force" if they are not allowed to take their livestock to the Bahr -al-Arab area in Abyei within "ten days," as reported by the pro-government *Al-Raed* daily newspaper.

NCP, SPLM talks in Addis to resume on April 5th

Al-Ahdath Addis Ababa/ Khartoum, 06/03/11 – Talks in Addis Ababa between the CPA partners on the post-referendum economic issues of oil revenue, foreign debts and currency have come to a close with "considerable progress" as an official attending the talks said. He said that the two sides have agreed to resume talks on outstanding issues on April 5th.

Southern Sudan muls alternate oil pipelines

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 06/03/11 – If ongoing oil explorations reveal sufficient reserves, the south may consider an alternate oil pipeline that does not pass through the north, said SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum. The south, he says, may consider export pipelines through Kenya and the DRC to the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic. Amum noted however that as situations stand right now, there is no alternative to southern Sudan using the oil pipelines that pass through the north.

In a related development, *Al-Akhbar* quotes diplomatic sources as saying that the US government has pledged to bankroll an oil pipeline from southern Sudan to Djibouti through Ethiopia.

Opposition parties to sue SMC

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 06/03/11 – The opposition National Consensus Forces say it is considering instituting legal charges against the Sudan Media Centre (SMC) for reporting that the opposition intends to carry out some acts of sabotage in a bid to destabilise Khartoum with the help of some unspecified foreign parties. The opposition says it is planning to stage peaceful demonstrations next Wednesday in solidarity with the uprisings in a number of Arab states and a protest rally on International Women's Day on Tuesday.

The opposition has also warned the NCP not to instigate violence in a rally they intend to hold at the SPLM office in Al-Mogran, Khartoum.

In a separate story, *Al-Akhbar* reports that leaders of the opposition alliance intend to hold a meeting next Saturday to seek agreement to reject the NCP's calls for the formation of a broad-based government.

Other Highlights

Justice Chande expected in Sudan today

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 06/03/11 – UN Independent Human Rights Expert on Sudan, Justice Mohamed Chande, is expected in Sudan today. Justice Chande would be here for one week during which he would meet with the Minister of Justice, the Chief Justice, the head of the SSRC and the Advisory Council of Human Rights.

Chande is also expected to visit Darfur, southern Sudan and Abyei before holding a press conference in Khartoum.

Central Equatoria given one month to consult on capital relocation

Radio Miraya Juba, 04/03/11 - The Southern Sudan Capital Committee has given Central Equatoria state government one month to consult on the possibility of relocating the state's capital from Juba. After two days of closed-door meetings on the issue of southern Sudan's future national capital city, the government of Central Equatoria resolved that the issue needs wider consultation, including with all the southern states.

The Speaker of Central Equatoria Legislative Assembly, Naphtali Hassan Gale, told *Radio Miraya* that the discussion on the capital city is not a priority for the state government at the moment.

The Capital Committee is tasked by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to provide recommendation on the location for a new capital for southern Sudan. Currently GoSS shares Juba as the capital with Central Equatoria state government.

14 feared dead and 35 injured in Jonglei

Gurtong.org Jonglei, 05/03/11 - 13 People have reportedly been killed and 35 injured in intense clashes in Jonglei State early this week, between Ayual and Dacuek communities over land disputes. The incident occurred in the Wuanglei area of Nyuak Payam [district] of Twic East County.

Jonglei Governor Kuol Manyang told reporters Friday in his office in Bor, the capital of the state, that he had received reports that the death total death toll was 14 people including the SPLA soldier and 35 injured.

Kuol said that the fighting was caused by an ongoing long-term dispute over land between what he called “long time dispute” between Ayual and Dacuek communities at Wuanglei. An investigation into the cause of the fighting has been launched.

The fighting broke out yesterday at 10am local time and concluded at around 2pm. Eye witnesses told Sudan Tribune from Panyagoor, the capital of Twic East County that the two sides used AK47's and other machine guns including F9 grenades among others arms.

A fact finding committee is expected to travel to Wuanglei to investigate how many people were killed and whether F9 grenades and other weapons were used in the fighting.

Kuol also said his request the United Nation Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) office for flights to bring injured people to hospital had been accepted adding that evacuation of wounded people was due to take on Friday, March 4.

Authorities to start ferrying southern Sudanese returnees stuck in Kosti

Al-Sahafa Khartoum/ Kosti, 06/03/11 – A first batch of about 2,800 returnees from a total of about 6,600 southern Sudanese returnees stuck at the inland river port of Kosti for the last three months may finally be headed for home today. The remaining returnees will start their journey home tomorrow.

The head of the committee charged with monitoring the health and services situation in the returnee camps, Al-Tayeb Al-Waseela, says all arrangements are in place after the UNHCR availed river transport vessels. He lauded the assistance provided by the WFP and the UNHCR to assist the returnees.

OPINION: Could the peoples' anger move the UN forces in Abyei?

By Mohamed Osman Omar, Al-Ahdath - With an angry tone, Abyei Area Administrator Deng Arop Kual vented his anger on the UN forces stationed in Abyei whom he said did nothing to “stop the massacre against out helpless people”. Speaking on a telephone interview with *Al-Ahdath*, the chief administrator said he does not know the reason why these forces are in Abyei. “We ask them to do something protect the people,” he said.

“Whenever we ask them to do something, they do nothing under the guise of ‘bureaucratic procedures’ while our people are killed every day,” he lamented.

The Abyei Area Administrator is not alone in claiming UN inaction over the plight of the people of Abyei. Some years back the people of Abyei sought UNMIS protection only to be disappointed as UNMIS merely withdrew its machinery inside the camps and only provided protection for its people while some were evacuated by helicopter to Kadugli.

The UN forces, most of whom are from Rwanda, claim that they have a Chapter VI mandate that does not allow them the use of force to protect civilians but only to protect themselves and UN staff and property.

Last week, unidentified armed men attacked citizens near the UN compound in Abyei and indeed managed to attack part of the UN compound and abduct a UN staff member. Eyewitnesses report that the attackers came in 4wd vehicles and attacked the people within the sight of the UN forces while these forces looked by. “If they continue staying here doing nothing then they should just leave us alone,” the eyewitnesses said.

“Neither the UN forces nor the JIUs can protect the civilians in the area and the police is helpless. The people have to fend for themselves while they wait for a political solution to the Abyei issue,” agrees the Area Administrator.

A senior UNMIS staff in Abyei who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the local staff working in Abyei feel dismay over UN inaction to protect the civilians in the area. “I don’t know why we could not request the United Nations Security Council to change our mandate to cover protection of civilians,” he said.

It is worth noting that Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios had earlier ruled out possibilities for a Chapter VII mandate for the UN troops in Abyei.

Meanwhile NCP’s Rabie Abdul-Ati says what is happening in Abyei is one of the reason why the NCP is calling for an end to the UNMIS mandate, not only in Abyei, but in Sudan as a whole. “We also do not want a Chapter VII mandate for these troops because this would curtail state sovereignty,” he said.