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Highlights

“SPLM leaders opportunists” – Lam Akol

Chairman of the SPLM-DC Lam Akol, addressing 5000 followers who gathered for the party's convention yesterday in Khartoum, described Kiir-led SPLM as a “failed movement, adding its leaders are opportunists,” *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. He said he had tried to correct the mistakes of the junta who had taken over the SPLM control at an exceptional juncture. “They have turned the movement into a tool to satisfy their personal whims,” he said.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website***, Akol condemned tribalism, saying it pins down development in Southern Sudan.

Lam Akol, founded last June the SPLM-DC after a long silent crisis with his former party, the SPLM. He said he wants to save the SPLM from the “abyss” and said that its leadership is “bankrupt” and “undemocratic”.

“Do not extend political debates to villages where they are misunderstood to cause havoc with subsequent killing of innocent children and women as in the case of recent tribal clashes in Jonglei and Warrap states,” he advised.

“No, No, don’t trust such leaders who want to divide the country on tribal lines,” he said while declining to mention specific names.

Lam Akol has said on many occasions that he would contest all positions including position of the president of the government of Southern Sudan except national presidency.

The convention is expected to last until September 2 in the Friendship Hall, Khartoum. The SPLM-DC said it had been forced to hold this convention in the national capital due to the hostility of southern Sudan ruling party toward its activities.

Representatives of the National Congress Party, the United Democratic Salvation Front, the Democratic Forum of Southern Sudan, SANU, USAP, and the National Justice attended the opening session of the convention.

Sudan’s DUP denies supporting Bashir candidacy

Sudan Tribune website, 31/8/09— the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) dismissed reports published in the Sudanese capital on its support to the candidacy of President Omar Al-Bashir for another term.

Al-Tayar, a new Arabic language daily reported today that Al-Haj Atta Al-Manan, a leading DUP member said that his party and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) had agreed to nominate Al-Bashir as joint candidate for the presidential election next year.

The report also said the two parties reached an agreement on the distribution of the electoral constituencies.

“I would like to announce that no such matter has been discussed within the party and its institutions, and that could never be the position of the Democratic Unionist Party. I do not think

that anyone from the party leadership would dare to take this position," said the deputy chairman Ali Mahmoud Hassanein.

Hassanein further said that such position is against the heritage of the party and the DUP masses are "not only opposed to the totalitarian regimes but also combat it."

Opposition parties reject NCP, SPLM census deal

Al-Akhbar reports the opposition parties have warned of the consequences of news of conclusion of a deal between the NCP and the SPLM over the census results. Reportedly, the NCP and the SPLM reached an agreement whereby the latter would be granted 150 constituencies based on the CPA percentage rather than 91 constituencies decided by the NEC.

Measures underway to ensure non-violent elections

VP Ali Osman Taha has disclosed that the government would soon unveil measures to guarantee free, fair and violent-free elections in the country, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Speaking at Ramadan Iftar yesterday in Khartoum Mr. Taha urged all political and religious bodies to work for an electoral process that would be a "safety valve" rather than a "gateway to conflict" in the country.

African special summit says state of war in Sudan's Darfur over

Xinhua 31/8/09 - A special summit of the African Union (AU) on resolution of conflicts in Africa said on Monday that the state of war in the restive western Sudanese region of Darfur was over.

The Tripoli Declaration issued at the end of the summit indicated that only criminal acts of some outlaws were taking place in Darfur at the present time, according to a report of the state-run SUNA news agency.

The declaration called for intensifying efforts to push ahead the political peace process in Darfur towards reaching stability and peace.

It appreciated the efforts of the joint representative of the United Nations and the African Union for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, in reaching a comprehensive settlement in Darfur.

The declaration reiterated the African leaders' refusal to deal with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which issued an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in March this year.

Al-Bashir showed up at the one-day summit, on his second visit to Libya since the arrest warrant was issued against him for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Affirming the importance of rehabilitation of the conflict-hit areas in Africa, the declaration announced that the year 2010 would be dedicated to peace and security on the world's poorest continent.

The Tripoli Declaration also asserted the African leaders' rejection to the unconstitutional changes of governments in Africa, and pledged to adopt preventive measures to combat this phenomenon.

About 30 African leaders attended the special summit held on the eve of celebrations marking

the 40th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution, which brought Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi to power in September 1969.

AU Panel on Darfur proposes hybrid court

Al-Sahafa reports the AU Panel on Darfur has submitted a preliminary report to the AU, stressing the need for justice and trials, suggesting special courts and a public prosecutor in Sudan to try alleged perpetrators of war crimes in the region. The Panel is also likely to recommend hybrid courts, like those in the Sierra Leone.

Khartoum Airport closes for maintenance till 30th October

Miraya FM 1/9/09 - The Khartoum International Airport Authorities have announced the partial closure of the airport from the 1st of September to the 30th of October for maintenance. The Director of Public Relations and Spokesman of the Civil Aviation, Abdel-Hafeez Abdelrahman, attributed the closure of the airport to technical problems.

Over 34000 people evacuated from Twic East

Miraya FM 31/8/09 -The Commissioner of Twic East County, Deim Ackol Deim, said that civilians in the area have been shocked by recent attacks which claimed dozens of lives and injured scores in the County. He said that over 34000 people were evacuated from the area, adding that attackers were in new military uniform and were using new machine guns.

Umma Party leader warns of growing “Takfir”

Al-Sahafa reports Umma Party leader Sadiq Al Mahdi has expressed concern over a growing Takfir {to declare people infidel} phenomenon which issues fatwa condemning people to death on claims of being “Kafir”, saying the imams of mosques, preachers and the Government are to blame for the spread of such ideas. In a statement he issued yesterday, Mahdi rejected the Takfir, calling for a quick action to contain the growing phenomenon.

Meanwhile, **Al-Watan** reports Sudan’s Communist Party has slammed the “Takfeer” group known as the association of clerics and preachers. Communist Party Central Committee member Suleiman Hamid has lambasted the group, saying they are nothing different from the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda, adding they are far too brutal than Nazism and Fascism. “Who is allowing this group to grow,” he wondered. He added that his party was in the process of filing a suit against the group.

South Sudan suffers food gap, not famine – Commissioner

The **Sudan Vision** 1/9/09 - Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Hasabo Mohammed Abdul Rahman, stressed that what is happening in the South is not famine, but food gaps in some of the areas affected by the security problems, caused by either tribal conflicts in the areas of Jonglei, Upper Nile, Eastern and Western Equatoria or LRA interventions.

He told SUNA that the joint survey conducted by the UN, GoSS, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) identified the specific needs of the South for the coming period with a cost estimated at 44 million pounds. 50% of this sum is to cover air transportation and aerial dropping costs.

HAC Commissioner stressed that the situation in the south is stable and is under control, praising the great response of international donors, particularly US and UK aid, as well as Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He added that there is an operation unit set up in coordination with the United Nations and international organizations, along with joint teams, for enhancing the needs of the people affected by torrential rains and floods in the state of Khartoum for the next three months.

Signs of mutiny within SPLA

Al-Wifaq reports a group of SPLA soldiers have warned of a mutiny within the JIUs in Khartoum because of being excluded in recent promotions. The six SPLA officers, all from the Nuer, have rejected the list of promotions issued by the SPLA command which only promoted officers who joined the SPLA before the CPA conclusion.

SPLA to launch peaceful disarmament campaign

By collecting 753 pieces of arms, the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) has kicked off a disarmament plan for the southern Sudan states, **Al-Sahafa** reports. SPLA Spokesperson Kual Deim said that the SPLA has received written directives from the GoSS to peacefully disarm civilians. He expressed optimism over the new plan which he said has the full support of the military and political leadership in southern Sudan.

GoSS to sponsor Murle and Lou-Nuer reconciliation conference

Jonglei State Government says it has put in place stringent measures to curb insecurity following recent clashes in the area, reports **Al-Sahafa**. At a meeting in Juba yesterday, Governor Kuol Manyang briefed FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit on the security situation. The Governor said that the situation is now calm in Jonglei with SPLA reinforcements deployed to improve security. Governor Manyang further revealed that a reconciliation conference for the Murle and the Lou-Nuer is scheduled to take place in Bor town on 11 September.

Abyei Deputy Speaker survives assassination attempt

Al-Sudani reports that Kabbashi Al-Toum Kabbashi, Acting Deputy Speaker of the Abyei Area Legislative Assembly and prominent Misseriya leader, survived an attempt on his life yesterday when a JIU soldier fired at him in front of his house in the Abyei Area, said AAA Information Officer John Akol. The son of the Acting Deputy Administrator Atem Bol was injured in the incident. Mr. Akol said that the culprits would face a fair and just court.

SPLA steps up patrols to curb LRA activities

SPLA Spokesperson Kual Diem said patrols had been stepped up in some areas in Southern Sudan and military presence beefed up in Ezzo in Western Equatoria State to curb LRA activities, reports **Al-Raed**.

Sudanese president appoints new NISS deputy

Sudan Tribune website 31/8/09 — The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir issued a decree appointing a new deputy director for the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). The post was vacant after the previous NISS deputy Mohamed Atta Al-Moula Abbas was promoted to head the bureau to replace Salah Gosh who was appointed as an adviser to Bashir.

Bashir named Lieutenant General Al-Rasheed Osman Fagiri to be the new NISS deputy. The Qatar-based **Al-Sharq** newspaper said that Fagiri was with the NISS since 1989 and most recently headed the economic security department within the bureau.