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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Helicopter seized in Falluj carrying ammunition - SPLA

Al-Ayyam Juba, 10/08/10 – Preliminary reports revealed that the helicopter seized by SPLA elements at the Falluj airfield was carrying ammunition and medicinal drugs and was bounded for a place called Tiuk Yok east of the Jonglei canal where George Athor's forces are camped, according to SPLA Deputy Spokesperson Malek Ayin Ajok. He said that no charges have been filed pending results of the investigation. He pointed out that authorities have transferred the eight people arrested and the three Russian crew members to Milliet for investigation.

Ajok revealed that the aircraft had landed to refuel at the Falluj airfield and the crew said they were heading for Fanjak. A few hours later, authorities at Falluj called Fanjak to find out whether the aircraft had landed there but were informed no white helicopter came in to land there. Consequently, the aircraft was seized by the JIUs and airfield security on its return to Falluj and the crew confessed they did travel to Tiuk Yok. Investigation is reportedly continuing.

Trial of *Ajras Al-Hurriya* senior editors starts

Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 09/08/10 – The Khartoum North Court started yesterday the first hearing of the case of the two senior editors of *Ajras Al-Hurriya* daily. The Newspaper's Deputy Chief Editor Fayez Al-Sileik and its News Editor Suleiman Sirri are charged by the National Intelligence and Security Services with libel and printing false reports that may adversely affect Sudan's relations with the neighbouring countries.

The offending article was published in the newspaper late last year, reporting an attack by Chadian opposition forces on two villages in Darfur.

UN chief renews call on all parties to return to peace talks

UN News Centre UN, 09/08/10 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today renewed his call for all parties to the conflict in Darfur to cease hostilities and participate in the ongoing efforts to bring about a peaceful, negotiated settlement to the fighting that has wracked the Sudanese region for over seven years.

"We have consistently urged the Government and the JEM to refrain from violence and return to the negotiating table, and we will continue to do so," Mr. Ban stated at a news conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

"The absence of both the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Movement of Abdel Wahid at the negotiation table and the ongoing fighting in Darfur are putting at risk the chances for a definitive and stable peace," Mr. Bassolé stated.

Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to ease recent tensions in the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Darfur state that arose last month after the conclusion of the latest round of Doha talks, with some groups contending they were unrepresented.

Mr. Ban reported that the head of the joint UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Ibrahim Gambari, is working closely with the Government to bring down tensions in the camp, which is home to more than 100,000 IDPs.

Mr. Gambari has been meeting with senior Sudanese officials in recent day to discuss the situation, voicing his concern at recent events in the camp and their possible negative impacts on the peace process. Kalma has been off limits to humanitarian agencies since the recent tensions began.

He continued his talks today in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, where he met with Government officials as well as UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Alexander Aleinikoff.

Sudanese government plans to remove Kalma camp – governor

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 09/08/10 - The Governor of South Darfur State disclosed Monday his intention to relocate Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Kalma which is seen as a bastion of rebels supporters in the restive region of western Sudan.

Speaking in a press conference held Monday in Khartoum, the Governor Abdel Hamid Musa Kasha said the state government is determined to remove Kalma camp which he described as "a military base and political platform" for SLM leader Abdulwahid Al-Nur who is not part of the peace process in Doha.

He further said that the camp which he termed as "a hideout for criminals fleeing from justice" lies near the railway station and Nyala Airport. This proximity to the airport increases the "security threat for UNAMID planes," he underlined.

Reacting to Kasha's statements, Al-Nur today rejected the removal of the camp. "We reject totally the statements of the Governor who was one of authors of the genocide against Darfur people," he said.

The rebel leader renewed his call for calm but warned that the lack of international pressures on Khartoum hostile policy against the IDPs may force the later to resist any new attack by the authorities.

He further warned UNAMID of taking part in the destruction of the camp saying "accepting this removal is a "provocation and an affront to humanity, and we caution against any participation in this Final Solution".

"We urge the international community to take a strong stance against such injustice because in the presence of such silence Darfurians have no other choice but to defend themselves."

The head of the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Ibrahim Gambari called yesterday on the government to ease the tension in Kalma camp and met Monday with a series of senior officials in Khartoum including Presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail.

UNAMID advised the Sudanese government to put aside its demand to handover six IDPs because this demand may affect negatively efforts to reach political solution.

However the South Darfur State governor renewed his adherence to its demand for UNAMID to handover the six persons.

"We insist to present the perpetrators to a fair trial. There is no room for courtesy in this respect, whether with UNAMID or any other trend", Kasha said.

South Sudan disease kills 31; treatment impeded

Reuters Juba, 09/08/10 - A deadly tropical disease has killed 31 people since June and infected 118 others in south Sudan, with tribal clashes and heavy rains hindering treatment, a government health official said on Monday.

The outbreak of the parasitic kala azar disease, also known as leishmaniasis, occurred in Ayod County in the east of the semi-autonomous region, where analysts fear a January vote on independence could fuel violence and disrupt medical services.

“Some patients have to walk between eight and 10 hours for treatment. But insecurity after tribal clashes have made people afraid to make the journey,” said Mounir Lugga, the health ministry’s director of tropical endemic diseases.

“The reason for the deaths is the delay in treatment and it has worsened with the rainy season — people cannot come from the villages, roads get very bad,” he said.

“We have the drugs they need, the only problem is access.”

The disease, caused by a parasite transmitted through sand fly bites, is almost always fatal if untreated and can kill those with weak immune systems within weeks, but 95 percent will survive with timely treatment, aid agencies say. Symptoms include an enlarged spleen, fever, weakness and wasting.

Pre-referendum Monitor

Unilateral declaration of secession is unconstitutional – Commission boss

Al-Ahram Khartoum, 10/08/10 – “The South Sudan Legislative Assembly could not declare southern Sudanese secession or independence unless all parties agree to an amendment of the current constitution that provides for a right to self determination for southern Sudan through a free and direct referendum, under the supervision of the Referendum Commission and under international and regional monitoring,” South Sudan Referendum Commission boss, Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, told the press yesterday. In acknowledgement of the gargantuan tasks involved in the conduct of the referendum, the CPA and the Interim National Constitution stipulated that the Referendum Act be issued by the beginning of the third year of the Interim Period, i.e. by July 2007, he said.

“That means, according to the Constitution, we require about 42 months to be able to prepare for the conduct of a credible and transparent referendum,” he pointed out.

Mr. Khalil said the Commission would not tolerate any attempt to interfere with or influence the referendum, adding that the exercise could be delayed if the two CPA partners agree, warning that the Commission would not be responsible for the outcome of the referendum if the choice is secession, the responsibility lies with the two partners.

In a related development, *The Citizen* reports that Acting Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly Daniel Awet told reporters in Juba yesterday that the regional legislative body has the mandate to decide the fate of the people of southern Sudan as a last resort if the referendum is derailed or denied.

NCP and SPLM form committees to discuss post-referendum issues

Al-Ahram Khartoum, 10/08/10 - The NCP and the SPLM have set up four committees to discuss post-referendum arrangements including oil, currency, debts, assets and water. The Joint Work Group on Financial, Economic and Natural Resources which is tasked to negotiate post-referendum arrangement held a meeting yesterday in Khartoum co-chaired by Governor of Bank of Sudan who is also NCP leading figure Dr. Sabir Ahmed Hassan and SPLM leader Costa Manibi where they agreed on the need for the four committees to finalize their work early December.

Sources said the Group formed a four-member committee, two members each, to agree on guidelines for its work.

Referendum Commission may suggest referendum delay to the Presidency

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 10/08/10 - The NCP reportedly recognized that the Referendum Commission is encountering obstacles to conduct the referendum on schedule but reiterated its commitment to the

deadline, adding that the Commission is likely to submit its vision on referendum delay to the Presidency for consideration. NCP political mobilization secretary Haj Magid Siwar told the newspaper that the Commission is facing obstacles including the appointment of the Commission's secretary general, saying the NCP is holding consultations with the SPLM on referendum and post-referendum issues, adding it is up to the Commission to decide on the issue of referendum delay, but pointed out that so far there is no agreement between the two partners to delay the process.

“It is certain that any delay requires the amendment of the constitution and the agreement (CPA) stipulates that the secretary general should be appointed six months before the deadline,” he said. Mr. Siwar added that the ongoing controversy over referendum delay is a reaction to the Commission's talk about obstacle facing the conduct of the process.

Youths for Separation conduct rally in Juba

Ajras Al-Hurriya Juba, 10/08/10 – A pro-separation southern Sudanese youth organized their monthly rally in Juba yesterday. Information Secretary for group addressed the rally at the John Garang Mausoleum saying that they would continue conducting such rallies on the 9th of each month until the referendum is conducted and the south becomes an independent state.

SPLM would not abandon the people of the Nuba Mountains

Ajras Al-Hurriya Juba, 10/08/10 – GoSS Finance Minister David Deng said that the people of the Nuba Mountains of Southern Kordofan have paid a high price at the war for freedom, justice and equality and southern Sudan would never abandon them. Addressing the inauguration of the Al-Jibal Commercial Bank (owned by a group of investors from the Nuba Mountains area) in Juba yesterday, the Minister said that southern Sudanese would help the people of the Nuba Mountains realise their aspirations through the Popular Consultations.

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