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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Parties agree to redeploy all forces from Abyei

Local dailies, Khartoum, 14/04/11 – The joint political committee of the NCP and the SPLM meeting in Khartoum yesterday agreed on the withdrawal of all unauthorised forces from the Abyei area and to the formation, together with the UN, of a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) to monitor and verify implementation of the agreement on redeployment.

The Abyei Standing Committee underlined at a meeting in UNMIS yesterday the need to implement the Kadugli Agreements of 13-17 January and the Abyei Agreement of 4 March 2011. The two sides also agreed to allow the JTC and UNMIS unhindered access to operationalise the agreements.

Both sides also agreed that the JTC meet in Abyei on 18 April and that the Standing Committee meet in Abyei on 21 April. They also agreed to communicate to the respective communities the need for traditional leaders to meet urgently, through UNMIS facilitation, to address migration issues.

UNMIS has meanwhile welcomed the decisions by the Abyei Standing Committee to form a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) for the implementation of the Kadugli Agreements of 13 and 17 January 2011. In a press statement circulated yesterday, the UN mission said it shall provide the necessary assistance required to facilitate the implementation of those decisions.

Presidency to meet on Wednesday

Al-Ahdath, Khartoum, 14/04/11 – The Ceasefire Political Committee (CPC) meeting yesterday resolved to request the ad hoc technical north-south border demarcation committee to table the draft border map that should have been ready by the time of last Tuesday's meeting of the committee that did not take place last Tuesday.

A committee of experts drawn up by the AU have offered assistance to the parties to overcome the differences.

Hassaballah Omar, a member of the committee, said that the CPC meeting went well. He revealed that the Presidency would convene in Khartoum next Wednesday to discuss outstanding issues.

Al-Akhbar reports that the CPC meeting yesterday did not run long when the parties hit a snag on the Abyei issue. The two sides have agreed to resume talks later today.

China to support southern Sudan's nation building

Gurtong.org Juba, 13/04/11 Mr. Ambi Li Zhiguo, the Chinese Consul-General in Juba confirmed yesterday that his country, China, had expressed interest to assist the Government of Southern Sudan in its nation building after full recognition of her independency in July 9th 2011.

Mr. Ambi Li Zhiguo expressed his government's willingness at the Juba International Airport, he mentioned that as nation building stands to be one of the biggest challenges of the region ahead of her independency, China would like to contribute to various development initiatives. Education, health and water were among the underscored interests.

The Consul-General continued that China had invited the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, to her country to share experiences on the various sectors in China.

New rebel group calls to overthrow South Sudan government

Sudantribune.com Juba, 13/04/11 - A new rebel group led by Peter Gadet Yak a former general of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) called to overthrow Juba government and to form an interim cabinet formed by all the political parties in the nascent state.

The South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) said, in a statement entitled (The Mayom Declaration) put out on 11 April, it is determined to bring down the government of Southern Sudan led by President Salva Kiir and to replace it by a "national broad-base government agreed upon by all the South Sudan political parties".

The Major General Peter Gadet, defected from Juba army last March and disappeared after receiving a permission to visit Nairobi. The SPLA said he travelled from the neighbouring country to Khartoum but the Sudan Armed Forces denied any support to his move.

The former SPLA commander air defence and deputy commander of division three joined the South Sudan Army after Juba Declaration signed on 8 January 2006 between Salva Kiir and Paulino Matip the leader of the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF).

The Mayom Declaration was signed also by Brigadier General Carlo Kol, Deputy Commander of Joint Integrated Units and Colonel Bol Gatkouth Kol a former member of the South Sudan legislative Assembly and a member of the SPLM.

The signatories reiterated their commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The leaders of the SSLA pledged to form a two-year "national broad-base government agreed upon by all the South Sudan political parties". The interim government, they said, will organise general election in the South Sudan to choose by ballot the Constituent Assembly. The elected parliament shall endorse a permanent constitution.

The dissident generals denounced the "miserable state" of the SPLA and the "rampant corruption on the top echelon of GOSS". They appealed on the South Sudan army officers to join them to overthrow the government of the ruling SPLM.

The rebel group pledged to take care of the army and to transform it into "a truly professional national army". They further put among their objectives to prioritise services delivery to the Southern Sudanese and to fight corruption.

Activist in Telefon Kuku's campaign camp disappears

Al-Akhbar Kadugli, 14/04/11 – An activist in Telefon Kuku's campaign camp for the Southern Kordofan gubernatorial elections has gone missing in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan, for the last 4 days under mysterious circumstances. Colleagues at the Kuku campaign camp have expressed concern over Musa Al-Ihaimar Azrag's fate and some say the SPLM may be involved in the incident.

Other Highlights

43 killed or injured in clashes in Southern Kordofan

local dailies S. Kordofan, 14/04/11 – No less than 20 people were killed and about 23 others injured in violent clashes that erupted at the Al-Fayed area east of Southern Kordofan state. Some media reports portray it as a tribal issue while others say the clashes were between the SPLA and the Popular Defence Forces.

Further reports say that about 500 houses were also burnt during the clashes.

Al-Ayyam quotes SPLM's Abdulaziz Al-Hilu as saying that over 20 were killed and forty others injured in the attack by "people wearing military uniform in Al-Fayed, a village about 40 km from Rashad town in Southern Kordofan. Al-Hilu has pointed an accusing finger on the NCP saying that the ruling party wanted to derail the elections and sow mistrust between the communities. Al-Hilu who is also the SPLM candidate for Governor of Southern Kordofan wondered why the Central Reserve Forces stationed in that area passively stood by and did nothing to protect the civilian population against the raids.

Mohamedein Ibrahim, the spokesperson for the SPLM in Southern Kordofan, said that the armed men raided the village at five in the morning and burnt all houses, firing all those who tried to escape. He said that the casualty figures could not be ascertained because some of the dead remain under the ashes. He said that the JIUs later intervened to restore calm.

Asked on whether a fact-finding team would be sent to the site, Mohamedein said it is not possible to send a fact-finding team to investigate an incident which the state is party to.

Sources reveal that seven Popular Defence Forces (PDF) elements were among the dead.

Abyei facing food shortage

SRS Kajo-Keji, 12/04/11- Abyei is facing a food shortage due to insecurity along the Khartoum-Abyei road.

SPLM chairperson in Abyei, Chol Changath, said that the roads were closed 4 months ago during the clashes between the Misseriya and the Dinka Ngok communities.

He said that the situation was calm but is not good in terms of market accessibility, due to the road blockade, he said.

Officials deny forced recruitment in southern Sudan

SRS Bentiu, 12/04/11 - Officials in Unity State [southern Sudan] have dismissed rumours that there is a forceful recruitment on-going for the army in the state.

The SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] and the police last week issued an appeal of new recruits in the state that was misunderstood and thought to be obligatory, said Gideon Gatpan, the state information minister as he explained the recruitment process.

Sudanese military plane crashes killing one

Radio Omdurman Khartoum, 13/04/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khalid says a SAF training aircraft crashed this morning as it tried to take-off from Khartoum airport.

The Mi24 military helicopter was starting just preparing to takeoff when one of its engines caught

fire causing it to veer from the taxi-way and burst into flames killing one of its three crew members. The SAF rules out sabotage as a cause for the incident.

Turabi's family accuse Sudan security of intimidation

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 13/04/11 - The family of a jailed opposition leader accused agents from the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) of resorting to intimidation tactics during his stay in hospital where he was recently admitted.

Essam, son of Popular Congress Party (PCP) leader Hassan Al-Turabi, told Sudan Tribune on Wednesday that his father is suffering from sudden surges in his blood pressure and does not respond to medical treatment.

He stressed that Turabi needs to be moved for treatment abroad, something which authorities have refused to allow so far.

Essam said that NISS officers make unannounced entrances into Turabi's room in the hospital and put him under close surveillance which he claimed increases his tensions.

Jonglei: WFP food aid reaches families displaced by Athor's rebellion

Sudantribune.com Bor, 12/04/11 – The World Food Program (WFP) has donated 1,300 bags of food to over 200 families affected by conflict in Pigi County, the former base of renegade southern army general George Athor and his forces.

A team of top local officials consisting of the governor of Jonglei state, Kuol Manyang Juuk, state Speaker Peter Chol Wall, law enforcement minister Gabriel Duop Lam, legal affairs minister Mayen Ohka, members of the state's security committee, the commissioner for Pigi County and officials from the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) visited the county on Sunday March 20. They reported that the people of Pigi County was suffering from severe hunger and food shortages.

On his return from Pigi County to Bor Airport, governor Manyang told *Sudan Tribune* that the welfare of the displaced people from the villages formerly occupied by rebel forces loyal to George Athor Deng was the main reason of his visit. He said women and children are starving and the lack of medical facilities is an additional problem

Manyang acknowledge that his request for food and medical assistance to Canal and Khorfulus of Pigi County from World Food Program (WFP) and UNMIS has been accepted, adding WFP is ready to deliver food.

South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission chairperson in Pigi County, Santo Duot, confirmed to Sudan Tribune on Tuesday, April 12, the arrival of WFP donated food to the county last weekend.

IOM targets nearly 10,000 ex-combatants in S. Sudan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 13/04/11 - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has stepped up its efforts to ensure that over 10,000 ex-combatants are re-integrated in three selected states of South Sudan prior to the country's July independence.

The process, which involves offering re-integration packages to these former combatants, is being undertaken in collaboration with the southern government, local non-governmental organizations, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), civil society and community-based entities.

The initiative, earmarked for Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap states, is part of South Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration (DDR) program. The current DDR program was an integral part of the Sudan's 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

South Darfur Governor threatens to expel UNAMID personnel

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 14/04/11 – South Darfur Governor Abdulraheem Musa Kasha says his government is ready to expel UNAMID employees who refuse to be searched. His threats come two days after reports some UNAMID officials had refused to be searched.

"Any jobless and idle *khawaja* who refuses to be searched would be expelled," he said, "... if the people in UNAMID do not want to be searched, then the aircrafts are ready and they should immediately leave the country," Governor Kasha told the regular press encounter organised by the High Council for Decentralisation yesterday.

He also said that he is ready to expel a foreign agency (he gave no names) once the evidence against the agency has been compiled.

Kasha showed the audience a photograph showing officials of a recently-expelled aid agency purportedly talking to Darfur armed elements. He also said that his government is in possession of documents, e-mail addresses, faxes and the Thuraya phones used by the aid workers to link the armed groups to their head offices in Khartoum and New York. He also said that the aid workers expelled earlier had also disclosed the flight plan for a military aircraft the government used as it went on a bombardment mission.

12 Sudanese workers released after 2-day reprisal hostage-taking in Kalma

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 14/04/11- Representatives of a camp in South Darfur said they brokered jointly with the hybrid peacekeeping mission and a UN humanitarian body (OCHA) the release of twelve Sudanese aid workers held in Kalma after the arrest of a local aid worker.

Sudanese security service arrested on Monday 11 April a local aid worker employed by a US relief group, the International Medical Corps (IMC) from the camp. In reprisal, on the same day the relatives of the arrested aid worker, Jibril Ahmed Nourein, reacted by taking 12 workers conducting a vaccination campaign inside Kalma.

The UNAMID said, in its daily briefing of Wednesday, that the 12 workers were arrested by a youth group from the camp.

"We have brokered the release of the 12 Sudanese government workers who were held by Jibril's relatives, said said the spokesperson of Darfur displaced people, Hussein Abu Sharati. He further said they blamed the family for this action and urged them to "show some self-restraint in this regard in the interest of Kalma residents".

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