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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Clashes kill four people in Jonglei's Twic East: sources

Sudan Tribune website 14/2/10 – At least four people were killed in inter-sectional fighting over Payam center ownership in Twic East County, Jonglei state last Thursday.

Multiple sources told Sudan Tribune that the clashes between Ayual and Dacuek erupted when both sections claimed Wangulei, the center of Nyuak Payam. The dispute over its ownership has already made it to court, has not been decided on.

The Ayual Community is a group within the Dinka tribe whose geographical area is in Southern Sudan in Central Bor between two major clans, the Kongor and Dacuek.

It is not immediately clear how many people died on each side. There are nine critically wounded who are being treated in Bor Town hospital.

Heavy police deployment in Khartoum

Local dailies report that Khartoum State Police yesterday carried out a security plan by deploying police personnel across Khartoum with a focus on shanty dwellings, squatter settlements, Nile bank, casinos, internet cafes and Khartoum state's exit and entry routes. Khartoum State Police Director General Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Osman said the deployment is part of a week-long security plan by Khartoum Locality.

MF criticizes statements by Human Rights Expert

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has criticized the statements by the independent human rights experts Mohamed Justice Osman Chande about instability in the Sudan and the existence of restrictive laws, **Al-Ayyam** reports. FM spokesperson Muawia Khaled said the statement was incorrect adding the situation in the country is stable. "Elections are a complicated process but the atmosphere is favourable to hold free elections," he said.

President signs Child Act: President Al-Bashir yesterday signed the Child Act (2009), **Al-Sudani** reports. The law contains important provisions dealing with child legal age, penalties, protection of family and child, use of children in the military and free education. According to the law, the punishment of a child rape crime reaches execution or a life imprisonment.

UNAMID concerned over fresh fighting in Darfur

Al-Sahafa reports UNAMID has expressed concern over renewed fighting in Darfur states and urged SLA-AW to allow the Mission access to its controlled areas for assessment.

SLA-AW accused the Government of attacking its controlled areas in both west and north Darfur. SLA-AW spokesperson Nimir Mohamed Abdul Rahman confirmed the attack by Government-backed Janjaweed militias, saying it is intended to force the movement to take part in Doha talks.

However, SAF spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled has dismissed the claims, saying SAF is not battling any faction in Darfur.

UNAMID spokesperson Nouredine Mezni expressed the Mission's concern over continued hostilities.

Sudan Tribune website 14/2/10 reported SLA-AW said today they have successfully driven back an attack by the Government forces against their positions in Jebel Marra, in northern and southern Darfur killing some 64 soldiers.

The mountainous area of Jebel Marra witnessed recently escalation of violence after some three years of calm, due to attacks by the SAF and inter-factional clashes.

"Yesterday we successfully repelled an attack by the Government troops, said Commander Nouredine Janga who led the counterattack". He added they pursued the assailants to 10 km from El-Fasher.

The rebel commander said they repulsed the army from positions attacked last Wednesday and that they retook the full control of Aradyeb Al-Asharah, the latest position attacked by the Sudanese army, he stressed.

The rebel commander said they captured 16 vehicles and significant quantities of arms and ammunitions from the assailants. He also said there is no more factional fighting in the Jebel stressing the assailants were Government troops and paramilitary militias.

Reacting from Paris, Abdel Wahid Al-Nur said his Movement is fighting on five military fronts besides facing other form of pressures like the killing of a SLM student member in Khartoum and the attack on Kass IDPs this week.

He further denounced the deafening silence of the international community that he accused of complicity with Khartoum.

Al-Nur also said he is "a peace lover seeking to reach a real and lasting peace in Darfur". He emphasized that stopping attacks on civilians and disarming militias should be implemented by the government.

Aid groups working in the area, told Sudan Tribune the recent fighting triggered an important flow of displaced villagers who fled their homes in Jebel Marra. An aid worker, working in the region, who requested unanimity, said he fears the latest clashes would double the number of displaced to 20,000 people.

Heavy fighting forces MSF to evacuates staff from Jebel Marra

Heavy fighting between the SAF and SLM-Abdulwahid forces has forced the MSF-France to evacuate its international staff from the Jebel Marra area, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** has learned. The head of the MSF in Darfur told the **AFP** that the agency has pulled out ten international staff members from its office in Deirbat, Jebel Marra, as a result of the fighting.

Mbeki to organize conference for political parties in Khartoum

Mbeki Panel yesterday held consultations with President Mubarak of Egypt on ways to resolve the Darfur crisis peacefully as well as the support needed for the North-South peace process, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports.

Mbeki told reporters that his Panel was preparing to bring all the Sudanese political parties at a conference scheduled for 18 February for discussion on the North-South peace process, Darfur crisis and efforts to ensure free and fair elections in Sudan.

Student's death in Omdurman said to be political murder

Sudan Tribune website 14/2/10 – Mohamed Moussa, the student whose body was found Thursday with marks of torture, was an activist in the student organization affiliated with the SLA - Abdel Wahid Mohamed Al-Nur. He was abducted on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 10, at the main gate of the Khartoum University Faculty of Education in Omdurman.

A member of the Darfur Bar Association stated that the kidnappers, who arrived at the university in a truck, were members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

Moussa was found dead the next day in an open space in El Nile town in Omdurman, said the lawyer. Another account distributed by the Sudanese Communist Party stated that he was found dead inside a school in Al-Gamayir neighborhood in Omdurman. "His body bore signs of wounds and burns," read a press statement from the party.

Likewise, the news agency Reuters cited Darfuri student Mohamed Adam who saw the body at the morgue: "His hands were burnt, his skin cut up ... and his clothes soaked in blood," he said.

Moussa's full name is Mohamed Moussa Abdullah Bahraldien. He was a native of Kebkabiya in North Darfur, according to the independent Radio Dabanga broadcasting from exile. The police have refused to give his family a copy of the report of the morgue.

Student organizations affiliated with the SLM of exiled rebel leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur have been targeted in the past in a number of Sudanese cities. Darfuri student Mutasim Boker told Reuters that the NCP is responsible, saying "This was definitely NCP ... this is not the first time they have targeted us."

The statement of the Sudanese Communist Party stressed that the circumstances of the murder incline them to believe that the student had been killed for political reasons, particularly since Moussa was known for his activism in the student organization of the SLA-AW.

Meanwhile, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports that police authorities dragged the father of deceased upon his arrival at Khartoum Airport from Al-Fasher and took him away for investigation. The lawyer of the family Barood Sandal said the police dragged the father in an inappropriate way. He said the police apparently wanted to force the father to take his son's body.

Egyptian radio warns of "plot to divide Sudan"

A radio commentary by Wathiq Wajih on 14/2/10 warned the Sudanese people of attempts to divide Sudan by "external forces" that supply various factions with money, weapons and moral support.

"This plan to divide Sudan comes within a context of plan to divide Arab countries into small fragile states that could be easily controlled," the radio added, citing Yemen and Iraq as examples.

The visit of the Arab League chief, Amr Musa, to Darfur ensures the Arab support to Sudan, it said. The Arab League has financed about 33 per cent of projects in Darfur and the renovation of tens of villages there.

Sudan has an Arab as well as an African dimension, the radio noted.

Sudan raiders kill two Kenyan soldiers - army

Reuters 15/2/10 - Two Kenyan army personnel were killed by raiders from neighbouring Sudan as they patrolled the country's border, a spokesman with the defence department told Reuters.

The two, who were attached to the Natabal border patrol base on the Kenya-Sudan boundary, were ambushed and killed on Sunday morning, Bogita Onger said.

"An additional number of security men have arrived at Natabal border area. Our forces have not moved into Sudan, they have strengthened security and are investigating the incident," he told Reuters.

Raiders from Sudan frequently cross into northern Kenya to steal livestock from herder communities living in the remote region.

Periodically, fighting erupts between south Sudan's Toposa tribe and neighbouring Kenya's Turkana tribe over cattle and grazing rights.

However, tensions have been rising in southern Sudan ahead of national elections in April. The south, where civilians carry weapons after decades of civil war and a lack of strong Government in rural areas, saw at least 2,500 killed in tribal clashes last year.

Onger said Kenya was working with Sudan to arrest the gang responsible for the killings and added that no weapons were lost during the attack.

DR-CONGO: Church stands in solidarity with LRA victims

Sudan Tribune website 14/2/10 —The Catholic community in Isiro, in north-eastern DRC held a procession and a Mass to remember and pray for the victims of the LRA.

The day was also an expression of solidarity with those who have been wounded, tortured, or kidnapped by the rebels, according to Isiro Diocese statement.

For months, the Ugandan rebels have plagued the region by attacking defenceless villages.

Qatari Red Crescent to launch de-mining campaign around Kassala

Akhir Lahza reports that the Qatari Red Crescent Society started a mine-sweeping exercise around Kassala State last Saturday. The \$2 million exercise will cover the areas of Allaffa, Al-Garda, Talkouk and Digna, and is carried out in collaboration with the Sudan Red Crescent Society and the Sudan National Mine Action Centre with funding from the State of Qatar.

Elections Special:

NCP submits proposals to overcome crisis in southern Kordofan

Al-Ahdath reports that NCP delegation from southern Kordofan state headed by its governor Ahmed Haroun yesterday arrived in Juba for talks with the SPLM on electoral crisis in the region where the latter decided to boycott the process. SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said the delegation is carrying a message from President Al-Bashir containing proposals to resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, Amum said the SPLM Political Bureau would hold a meeting within hours to take a decision on the issue of the SPLM members who decided to contest elections independently.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, Amum said elections in Southern Kordofan state might be delayed.

However, he pointed out that the SPLM and the NCP are holding intensive discussions and there is hope that the crisis would be overcome.

Al-Bashir will win elections in first phase – Nafie

Al-Sahafa reports Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie as saying that the NCP candidate Omer Al-Bashir would beat other contestants from the first round, saying those who are talking about a second phase competition are betting on the wrong horse. Nafie, who was addressing a rally of youth in Khartoum, said his party would achieve a major victory at all levels of the electoral process and would defeat the “political parties which receive instructions from embassies and from abroad”.

Sudan's SPLM launches poll campaign to beat Bashir

Reuters 14/2/10 – the SPLM on Sunday launched their campaign for the nation's first multi-party elections in 24 years, fielding the man likely to be President Omar al-Bashir's strongest challenger.

Targeting the country's marginalised millions, the SPLM is campaigning for the presidential and legislative polls in April under the slogan "hope for change".

Presidential candidate Yasir Arman, who is actually a northerner, stressed the SPLM's appeal to voters of different religions throughout Africa's largest nation.

"Before we are northern or southern, Muslim or Christian, first of all we are Sudanese," Arman said. "Our country links the Arabs with the Africans," he said at the former home of Ali Abdel Latif, who led a revolt against British colonial rule in 1924.

Arman said the SPLM supported "voluntary unity", referring to a referendum on independence which will be held in South Sudan next January.

With the south dominated by the SPLM and composing a quarter of Sudan's electorate, Arman could pose a serious challenge to Bashir who is the favourite, analysts say.

Bashir's NCP asked the SPLM to withdraw Arman's candidacy, a move analysts say shows they are worried by the competition. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two presidential aspirants would face off in May.

Most of the opposition say they would unite in a second round against Bashir, who is wanted for war crimes in Sudan's western Darfur region by the International Criminal Court.

Arman enjoys support in Darfur and the east, but many people in the north worry that there would be a political limbo if the SPLM won the presidency and the south decided to separate.

Darfur “calm”, will participate in elections – Government

Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the prevailing stability of the security situation in Darfur permits the electoral process to take place in the region, **Al-Ahdath** reports. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Muawia Khaled reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure a favourable atmosphere for elections. Khaled, who was reacting to ASG (DPKO) Dmitry Titov's report to the SC, said the UN should encourage the Doha peace process and the ongoing efforts to hold free and fair elections.

According to **Al-Raed**, Khaled deplored the statements, saying the security situation in the region has improved and elections could take place.

Contestants in South Darfur complain of harassment

Rai Al-Shaab reports Al-Turabi-led Popular Congress Party (PCP)'s candidate in South Darfur Ibrahim Musas as saying that PCP's contestants have been harassed by security authorities in the area. He said two of his party's candidates have been subjected to search by the security personnel, adding that elections might not take place in the movements-controlled areas.

NEC calls on political parties to endorse party symbols

The NEC has called on the political parties that are yet to endorse their party symbols to do so within the next two days, **Akhir Lahza** reports. Reportedly, a party's final consent to the electoral symbol is required by the Commission and that after the expiry of deadline any request for modification or change of symbol would not be entertained.

Elections in Darfur is guarantee for Sudan's stability – Al-Bashir

President Al-Bashir at meeting yesterday with Arab League Secretary General Amro Mussa praised the League's role towards the situation in Darfur adding that elections would be held in Darfur as it represents a guarantee for stability in the country, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Mussa called on the President to brief him on the outcome of the League's visit to Sudan.

Miraya FM 14/2/10 reported that the Arab League concluded their extraordinary meeting in Al Fashir in northern Darfur with League Secretary General Amro Mussa stating that Darfur, once tense, is now tranquil. Mussa added that the League has contributed to the rebuilding of Darfur. He noted the reconstruction of 95 villages with 245 service centers providing facilities for villagers. The League, Mussa also said, has sponsored 79 health centers and 75 water stations. The council concluded the three-day meeting with the Al Fashir declaration: more humanitarian recommendations and resolutions.

Mussa further added that in future every reconstructed village in Darfur would have schools, health centers and social clubs.

Preparations underway for Kiir, Mirghani meeting

Sources said arrangements are underway for a meeting between FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and DUP leader Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani in the next two days, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. The two sides will discuss a range of issues.

Meanwhile, Al-Mirghani held talks yesterday with SPLM presidential hopeful Yassir Arman on the need to coordinate efforts to guarantee free and fair elections.

Op-Ed: Southern Sudan begins referendum preparations ...when does dialogue start?

Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh, Al-Ayyam 15/2/10 - With the elections campaign season in high gear, southern Sudan is looking towards the 2011 referendum and has taken some steps towards that end. Reports coming in from the south reveal that the GoSS has formed a work group responsible for referendum issues with VP Riek Machar at its helms. The reports also say that a technical team will prepare a study for the work group and that the GoSS has appointed a US legal firm to advice on related issues. The UN, the World Bank and other players in the international community have been informed of these preparations, the reports say.

But the issues still have some outstanding issues that remain unresolved. The issue of the north-south boundaries are yet to be resolved as well as the issue of membership to the referendum committees.

What we are concerned about is that there should be a committee in the north discussing post-referendum issues as well as this is a joint issue that concerns the country as a whole as Sudan

will never be the same again whichever way the vote swings at the referendum.

No one should be disillusioned that the country will remain unchanged should the south opt for unity. Unity itself requires new approaches. For instance, the CPA created three armies during the Interim Period – the SAF, the SPLA and the JIUs but stipulates that the first two forces be merged into a single army should the south vote for unity. This is an issue that requires extensive discussion. Other issues that need discussion include the issue of oil revenue, the banking system and myriads of other issues.

The issues become more complex with a vote for separation and require detailed study. Agreement must be reached on a long-term phasing for the arrangements for separation in order to avert the negative effects of a sudden separation. This is an issue that should not be confined only to the parties to the CPA but should have a wider participation of the people of Sudan both in the north and south of the country with a view to making separation a peaceful process. This is to say that what we either need a sustainable and stable unity that would not need to a new rebellion or peaceful and amicable separation that would not lead to a new war between two neighbouring states.