

15 June 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- New Government formed (**Dailies**)
- SPLM detains three Athor's soldiers (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Population census in southern Kordofan kicks off today (**Al-Tayar**)
- 15 killed, 12 injured in Murle, Nuer clashes in Jonglei (**Al-Ahram Al-Youm**)
- Dr. Riek Machar sworn in as GoSS Vice President (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Juba University under siege as student unrest escalates (**The Citizen**)
- UN urges action on two fronts in Sudan (**AP**)
- Bandits kill one student, injure three in southern Sudan (**The Juba Post**)
- Director of Kober prison suspended until investigation is completed (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Five doctors said abducted in Sudan's Darfur region (**Radio Miraya**)

Pre-referendum Watch

- Upcoming referendum will confirm unity – VP Taha (**Dailies**)
- List of referendum commission members return to Presidency (**Dailies**)
- NCP rejects talk about post-referendum arrangement (**Al-Watan**)
- NCP, SPLM to discuss referendum arrangement (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Sudan ruling party official urges safeguarding of national unity (**SUNA**)

Editorial

- Editorial: "The referendum ... is it possible in the current situation in South?" (**Sudan Vision**)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

New Government formed

Local dailies 15/6/10 – President Al-Bashir yesterday issued two decrees appointing 35 federal ministers and 42 ministers of state including 7 women ministers of state. The new government included new faces such as Luka Biong who is appointed as Cabinet Minister, Lual Acuil Deng as minister of oil and Mohamed Bushara Dosa as minister of Justice, Ali Karti as Foreign Minister, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid as Interior Minister, Joseph Lual Acuil as minister of humanitarian affairs and Dr. Mutrif Siddiq as state minister for humanitarian affairs.

According to *Al-Sahafa*, President Al-Bashir is expected to issue a decree to appoint presidential advisers.

SPLM detains three Athor's soldiers

Al-Ayyam 15/6/10 – The SPLA announced it has detained three soldiers from renegade Gen. Athor forces at Khour Flous area. SPLA spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol said SPLA ambushed Athor's forces at Jonglei canal area, capturing three of them. He said the detained soldiers confirmed that Athor is presently in Khour Flous County. They also revealed to the SPLA that Athor's soldiers are in civilians dress; they work in farms during the day and in the night they attack the SPLA.

Population census in Southern Kordofan kicks off today

Al-Tayar 15/6/10 – preparations have been completed for the start of population census in southern Kordofan today which will continue until 29 June. Southern Kordofan state Minister of Information Bashar Khamees said all technical arrangement had been finalized and called on all residents to assist the enumerators to carry out their mission.

15 killed, 12 injured in clashes between Murle and Lou Nuer in Jonglei

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 15/6/10 – More than 15 Murle were killed and 12 wounded yesterday in a clash with the Nuer tribe near Pibor County in Jonglei state. According to sources, the Lou Nuer rustled 3,000 heads of cattle from the Murle. Reportedly, SPLA deployed troops in the area but clashes are expected to renew.

Dr. Riek Machar sworn in as GoSS Vice President

Al-Akhbar 15/6/10 - Dr. Riek Machar was sworn in yesterday as Vice President for the Government of southern Sudan. Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Machar promised to work for resolving all security challenges and problems facing conduct of the referendum. He further pledged to continue working for peace and to speed up the development process, adding that there was an agreement between the two partners for participation in the governments in the North and the South.

Juba University under siege as student unrest escalates

The Citizen 15/6/10 - Hundreds of anti-riot police were deployed at Juba University yesterday following bloody fighting between the Dinka and Nuer student groups on Sunday.

Study in the University on Monday was paralyzed when the angry police turned thousands of students away because they do not carry their identity cards on them.

At least 15 students reportedly suffered serious injuries following the skirmishes which allegedly occurred when one of the students appeared to have breached the food line system, provoking anger from those who came first but served last.

UN urges action on two fronts in Sudan

AP 15/6/10 - The UN Security Council on Monday strongly backed efforts to achieve a peace agreement in Darfur by the end of the year and called for Sudan's Arab-dominated north and black African south to settle their disputes ahead of January's referendum on independence for the south.

The council heard briefings by the top envoys and mediators for the United Nations and the African Union who have been dealing with the two separate conflicts in Africa's largest country.

At a joint forum in early May, the AU and the UN agreed to coordinate international action on Sudan and decided that an overall political and peace agreement in Darfur should be concluded this year, ahead of the Jan. 9 referendum on the future of South Sudan.

Former South African president Thabo Mbeki, who chairs the AU High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan, called on the council to send "strong messages" to all parties to resolve differences and support peace efforts.

The referendum is part of a 2005 peace deal that ended a 21-year civil war between the north and the south in which two million people died. Salva Kiir, the leader of southern Sudan which was devastated during the war, has called on residents to vote for secession.

In a press statement, the Security Council expressed "grave concern" at the recent upsurge in fighting in western Darfur, called for an end to the violence, and urged all rebel groups to "engage constructively" in peace negotiations which are scheduled to resume this month in Doha, Qatar.

Ibrahim Gambari, AU-UN JSR, told the council that 447 people died in fighting in May between rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement and government forces, and "it is expected that the military confrontations may continue for some time unless urgent efforts at ensuring a cease-fire are made by the international community."

The recent upsurge in fighting, which has displaced between 10,000 and 50,000 people, has also created "very serious hindrances" for the more than 20,000-strong U.N.-AU peacekeeping force trying to carry out its mandate of protecting civilians in Darfur, he said.

"It is essential to reiterate to all the belligerent parties that there can be no military solution to the Darfur crisis and a return to negotiations is the only viable option," Gambari said.

The Security Council also underlined the importance of fully implementing the 2005 peace agreement and called for "timely preparations" for the referendum and negotiations on post-referendum issues.

Haile Menkerios, the top UN envoy overseeing north-south issues, said both sides must continue cooperating whatever the outcome of the referendum, stressing that a vote for "separation should not be considered a divorce."

He said key tasks that must be resolved include settling the disputed north-south border and the formation of commissions to conduct referendums in South Sudan and the disputed oil-rich

border area of Abyei.

"I believe that if the parties act and cooperate on their commitments with the sense of urgency the situation calls for, a timely conduct of the referenda is possible, albeit challenging," he told the council, noting that "the security situation around much of the border and within southern Sudan remains of great concern."

Mbeki said when he returns to Sudan later this month his panel will engage Sudanese government officials with the aim of agreeing on how to achieve justice and reconciliation in Darfur before a major Darfur conference "targeted at achieving a global political agreement."

As for north-south issues, he said the first meeting of teams that will negotiate post-referendum arrangements will be held June 21.

Bandits kill one student, injure three in southern Sudan

Juba Post 14/6/10 - An armed gang has ambushed a group of students travelling from Juba to Wau University leaving one dead and three critically injured. The attack which took place yesterday morning, between Aliac and Mundari in Lakes States [southern region], was executed by twelve armed men three of them impersonating as [Sudan People's Liberation Army] SPLA soldiers.

According to eyewitness near Kalathok, formerly an SPLA barrack, 12 armed raiders stopped a bus carrying 24 students and one policeman and once they were on board they ordered the driver to continue driving which he declined. The drivers' action prompted the attackers to shoot recklessly leaving one student dead and three others seriously injured.

Director of Kober prison suspended until investigation is completed

Al-Sahafa 15/6/10- Informed sources said the director of Kober prison is suspended from work until investigation in the escape of four people accused of killing the American diplomat John Granville is completed. Reportedly, the hunt is continuing to arrest the accused who broke out of the prison.

Five doctors said abducted in Sudan's Darfur region

Radio Miraya 14/6/10 - UNAMID has said in a press release that the North Darfur's Ministry of Health reported that five of its doctors were abducted by unidentified persons in Tabara, 30 km west of Tawila area. The mission added that the doctors were investigating a possible outbreak of meningitis when they were abducted.

However UNAMID said that there have been conflicting reports today as to whether the doctors had been released.

Pre-referendum Watch

Upcoming referendum will confirm unity – VP Taha

Local Dailies 15/6/10 – VP Ali Osman Taha has said that the forthcoming referendum would be in favour of unity, adding the state would launch a wide campaign of awareness to keep the country united. Mr. Taha, who made the remarks yesterday at a meeting with a delegation from the National Organization for Support to Unity, said the government had implemented 90% of the CPA, adding only the demarcation of the border; the Abyei area and the conduct of the referendum are still unresolved. He said the state was planning to implement some

development projects in the South during the forthcoming period and the government is in contact with the regional and the international community to explain problems involving separation.

List of referendum commission members return to Presidency

Local dailies 15/6/10 – The National Assembly has refused to endorse the membership of the southern Sudan referendum commission and the list of the nominated members was returned to the Presidency for review. Reportedly, the SPLM MPs objected to one of the nominated members, Mr. Taj Al-Sir Mohamed Saleh, who is a member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Unionist party (DUP). The SPLM MPs argued that inclusion of Mr. Saleh as a member of the commission contravenes article (10) of the South Sudan Referendum Act which prohibits membership of a person with partisan affiliation.

NCP rejects talk about post-referendum arrangement

Al-Watan 15/6/10 – NCP official and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin has called on the western countries to respect Sudan's sovereignty and the southern Sudanese's choice, urging them not to open consulates before the referendum is conducted. "Any talk about post-referendum arrangement or an independent southern Sudan state is premature because the southern Sudanese have not said their word yet," he said, adding the SPLM is committed to the CPA which provides for exertion of efforts by the two partners to keep the country united. Al-Hassan added that talk about post-referendum arrangement affects the conduct of the exercise.

NCP, SPLM to discuss referendum arrangement

Al-Wifaq 15/6/10 – The NCP-SPLM Joint Executive Committee will hold a meeting next week to be chaired by VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar. According to Machar, the SPLM has submitted to the NCP proposals about article (76) of the referendum law, saying the meeting would focus on issues relating to post-referendum arrangement including citizenship, security, troops, international forces, debts, assets, oil and contracts as well as Nile waters.

Sudan ruling party official urges safeguarding of national unity

SUNA 14/6/10 - NCP Deputy Chairman Dr Nafi Ali Nafi has affirmed the important of Khartoum State to safeguard the national unity in the country, referring to the leading role of the state and the integration of efforts between the state's assembly and government.

This came in his address yesterday to the opening sitting of the first session of the Legislative Assembly of Khartoum State.

Dr Nafi called on the assembly to carry out its monitoring role for assessment of the humanitarian experiment and realizing institutional integration and advising to the executive authority.

Editorial

Editorial: "The referendum ... is it possible in the current situations in South?"

The Sudan Vision 14/6/10 - Irrespective the pledge of the President in his address to the parliament that the referendum will be conducted as scheduled, there are several indicators which could be ignored point that there are several difficulties and obstacles that might lead to the delay of the referendum timing.

However, the central government is not involved in those obstacles, but it is the concern of other parties over the issue.

The UN expressed an increasing worry on the situations in the South in terms of food shortages and the tribal violence, besides the rebellion of SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] officers who amounted up to now to five in various areas of the region.

The international organization hinted that under the current situations in the South it will be difficult to conduct the referendum for self-determination.

The situations in general are deteriorating in the South and that is clear from the news about the SPLA elements continue harassing ! the citizens besides arresting hundreds of those who are members in other political forces including its partner, the NCP [National Congress Party] members.

On its part, the African Union seems to be unsatisfied over conducting such a crucial referendum in such circumstances and that is evident from the statements of South Africa Foreign Minister who rejected such a referendum affirming that the new born state will be a failed one.

Also the Chairman of the AU Commission called in strong words to support Sudan to prevent the secession as that will lead to breaking up the continent's states.

All these emerging indicators point to the possibility to crystallize a reasonable policy to find out a satisfactory solution for all parties.

The essential mistake of some SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] leaders is that they voiced clearly their support to separation, leaving their national obligation and commitment towards the attractive unity stipulated in the CPA.

The 6 years interim period was designed and agreed on for the purpose of preparing the environment to conduct a referendum in healthy situations in which every political party could practice its right in campaigning for unity or otherwise according to its manifesto; but unfortunately the SPLM banned by force any activities of other political forces in the south to the extent that some parties filed law suits in the constitutional court to enable practicing their political rights in the region.

It is obvious that the SPLM thinks that it is the only concerned party over the referendum issue and that it should be conducted for its interests in full disregard to the other political parties' interests or the African states; and that is unfortunate as its consequences will affect all the areas in the near and the far future.