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Highlights

Presidency to meet in two days for discussion on referendum

Al-Ayyam 16/8/10 – The Presidency is to hold a meeting during the two coming days to discuss the issues of referendum and border demarcation. FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit is expected to arrive in Khartoum during the two coming days to take part in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the South Sudan Referendum Commission submitted an official letter to the Presidency saying time remains is insufficient to conduct the referendum. According to *SMC*, a government source revealed that the Commission submitted the letter to the Presidency since last week containing justifications that it would be difficult for it to organize the process within the remaining time.

The source expects the presidency to name a Secretary-General for the Commission as quick as possible.

Referendum chief threatens to resign

Al-Rai Al-Aam 16/8/10 – Head of the National Referendum Commission Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil has threatened to resign, saying the southern members of the Commission are seeking to undermine ongoing preparations to conduct the process by preventing representatives of the North from occupying key positions in the Commission.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website*** 15/8/10, Khalil told *Reuters* in an interview that the five southerners were voting as a block to prevent any northerner taking the key post of secretary-general, a principle he said he could not accept.

The secretary-general controls the funds and budget of the commission and south Sudan's ruling party has warned the deadlock could derail the vote.

"If things continue like this I will just excuse myself that's all," Khalil added. "This [commission] can only work if we can get people to be cooperative, to have mutual trust ... and to approach things objectively from a national point, not from the point of view of north and south," Khalil said.

"With things as they are, all resolutions would be a foregone conclusion," he said. "The five [southern] members are determined to vote as a block — to me this is just not acceptable, it makes nonsense of the whole process."

Khalil said of the 63 positions outlined in the Referendum Law, 59 had already been filled by southerners. He said he had left the problem for the presidency to decide.

"I am not prepared to head a commission that works this way. With things as they are, all resolutions would be a foregone conclusion," he said.

But SPLM official Pagan Amum said Khalil showed "tendencies of dictatorship" for ignoring the majority opinion in the body.

"If these problems are not resolved quickly the referendum commission will definitely fail to deliver on organising the referendum," he added.

Meanwhile, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports that Head of GoSS Mission in Washington Ezekiel Jatkoth has called on the international community to salvage the CPA and considered any delay a "declaration of war".

In a related development, NCP political secretary Ibrahim Ghandour said that "Islamists" alone should not be blamed for partition of the country, pointing out that all the Sudanese political forces have agreed to self-determination for the South. According to ***Al-Wifaq***, Ghandour, who was speaking in an interview to the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper, warned of a renewed war if referendum is conducted in the absence of a demarcated North-South boarder.

NCP secretary for organizations, Qutbi Al-Mahdi, said the Referendum Commission is functioning under difficult circumstances so it has the right to request delay for technical reasons, adding that the remaining time is not enough to conduct a fair referendum reflective of the will of the southerners. However, he said, it is up to the two partners to decide.

Reportedly, the NCP has warned that declaration of independence of the South from within the parliament will be considered a violation of the CPA.

Registration for referendum to begin in next two months –Commission

Al-Wifaq 16/8/10 – *Africa Today Website* reported Deputy Head of the Referendum Commission and head of the Commission office in southern Sudan Chan Rec Madut as saying that registration for referendum would begin in September or October.

Commission approves EU, AU and Carter Center to monitor Referendum

Miraya FM 15/8/10 – Chairman of National Referendum Commission (NRC), Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, said that the Commission had approved applications of European Union (EU), African Union (AU) and Carter Center to monitor the process, adding that the parties would fully cooperate with these observers, pointing out that the Commission requested the authorities to facilitate the entrance of the observers into the country.

Khalil blasted comments of the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State, in which he called on citizens of the state to vote for secession so as to get rid of what he called the "northern oppression".

Khalil said that such statements might raise troubles and consider them as form of intimidations that go against the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of choice to vote for either unity or separation. In response, the Governor of Eastern Equatoria Lobong Logoare denied calling for or forcing the citizens of his state to vote for separation.

Logoare confirmed that it is his constitutional right as an individual to call for an option he sees right, pointing out that it is ensured in Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the transitional constitution.

“There is an international plot to support secession – Foreign Minister Karti Al-Sudani 16/8/10 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it is in the know of plans by some countries to support secession of southern Sudan but said mechanisms are in place to frustrate such plots.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti said the “American report” on secession of the south represents leak of stances which some quarters and pressure group seek to turn into final decisions for those countries. Karti, after a meeting with VP Ali Osman Taha yesterday, said his Ministry attaches great concern to referenda and Darfur. He said he stressed to Taha the need for engagement and cooperation with the central African community, Eastern Europe, the countries that broke away from former Soviet Union and South America. He said the meeting also discussed the coming UNGA and the need for a clear work plan for Sudan’s delegation.

SPLM political bureau concludes meetings

Al-Wifaq 16/08/10 – The SPLM was due to hold a meeting late afternoon yesterday to announce the Final Communiqué and Resolutions of its meetings in Juba. The three-day meeting discussed, inter alia, the referendum, the security situation in the south, appointment of the South Sudan Referendum Commission’s Secretary-General, the formation of the Abyei Referendum Commission, border demarcation, Popular Consultations and Darfur. Sources said that an internal memorandum has been circulated at the meeting requesting delegates to consider a one-year delay of the referendum for internal considerations concerning southern Sudan.

Speaker calls for a timely referendum

Al-Ayyam 16/8/10 – The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has called for the conduct of the referendum on schedule, stressing the need for freedoms to sensitize the people about the referendum. Al-Tahir added that 90% of the southerners would vote for unity if granted full freedom to vote.

Other Highlights

Darfur file committee discusses plan to secure aid delivery

Al-Khartoum 16/8/10 – The Committee tasked with Darfur dossier held a meeting at the Republican Palace yesterday where it discussed the humanitarian situation in Darfur with a focus on plan to secure relief delivery. The committee also discussed developments at Kalma camp and the ensued humanitarian crisis. The Committee agreed on the need for urgent intervention of the Ministry of Finance and Humanitarian Affairs as well as the civil society organizations to provide needed aid to the IDPs in Kalma camp. The committee pledged to track down the culprits who had abducted two UNAMID peacekeepers to bring them to justice and to free the abductees.

Dr. Ghazi Salaheldine, who is in charge of the Darfur file, said the committee stressed

the need to deliver humanitarian aid and to bring the abductors to justice. He confirmed that work with UNAMID is progressing.

West Darfur Government expels four international aid workers

Ajras Al-Hurriya 16/08/10 – The Government of West Darfur State yesterday expelled four foreign aid workers in what is seen as an early response to President Al-Bashir's recent statements authorizing Darfur states' governments to expel any foreign organisation that exceeds its mandate. Officials at the Humanitarian Aid Commission declined to comment on the expulsion yesterday of the two UNHCR employees: the head of the FAO in West Darfur and the head of the ICRC's West Darfur delegation, saying that such a measure only falls within the purview of the state authorities. UNHCR officials also declined to comment.

An aid worker, however, revealed that some security personnel walked into the offices of the ICRC in West Darfur and asked the director to leave within 24 hours without giving her written notice. The head of the ICRC in Zalengei was also expelled last week.

60 cases of malnutrition in Kalma camp reported - UNAMID

Miraya FM 15/8/10 – UNAMID has revealed 60 cases of malnutrition in Kalma IDP camp in Southern Darfur, as a result of deteriorating humanitarian situation. The UNMAID stated in a press release that sound of shooting are heard within the camp pointing out the relocation of majority of IDPs, who sought shelter near UNAMID's local Community Policing Center, to other parts of the camp.

Earlier, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Relief Coordination, John Holmes, urged the Sudanese authorities to allow humanitarian workers to enter the camp in Darfur.

The Deputy Governor of Southern Darfur state, Abdul Karim Moussa Kasha, said that the motive of the group, that kidnapped two UNAMID officers on Saturday, is material and not political.

In an interview with Radio Miraya Abdel Karim described the UNAMID, as incapable of protecting its employees in Darfur, urging the Mission to reconsider their currently operating security mechanism?

He said that UNAMID has become a burden on the Government forces to protect; pointing out that the state Government is continuously exerting efforts to arrest the perpetrators as soon as possible.

In relevant developments, Jordanian Minister of Information, Ali Al Ayed, said in press statements that the two officers are Jordanian and members of Jordan's security apparatus. According to a UNAMID statement, an armed group on Saturday kidnapped two officers from the UNAMID peacekeeping forces in Nyala, Southern Darfur.

Government denies barring aid workers from entering Kalma camp

Al-Khartoum 16/8/10 – Sudan Government dismissed reports that it denied aid workers and regional and international NGOs access to Kalma camp or to any other areas.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muawia Khaled told reporters yesterday that Sudan government respects agreements and its international commitments.

Khaled's statement was in reaction to statement by USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Relief Coordinator John Holmes calling on Sudan to desist from denying aid workers access to Kalma camp. "National sovereignty should be respected," Khaled said.

Sudan central bank freezes accounts of government agencies

Sudan Tribune website 15/8/10 - Sudan's central bank issued a directive this week freezing the accounts of several government agencies without explanation on the motives behind the decision.

Sudanese media reported that agencies impacted include Sudan civil aviation authority, Khartoum's stock exchange, Sudan Sugar Company, Maritime Port Authority, National commission for Roads and Bridges, Geological Research commission and expatriates interests body.

The central bank issued a statement today saying that the measure was taken upon instructions from the finance ministry.

But the head of Maritime Port Authority Ibrahim Al-Amin told UN sponsored Miraya FM that this step is a "routine" one caused by the fact that these agencies have fell behind on their obligations. Al-Amin said that the Maritime Port Authority reached an agreement with the finance ministry to settle their dues.

NCP condemns move to establish JEM base in Uganda

Al-Rai Al-Aam 16/08/10 – Prominent NCP figure, Qutbi Al-Mahdi, has condemned reports that JEM sought to establish a military base in neighbouring Uganda, describing the move as a threat to peace and stability in the Continent and called on the AU to take note of such actions by some African leaders which might negatively impact peace and stability in the region.

The Parliamentary Committee on Darfur Peace has meanwhile described these latest reports as a hostile act by Uganda against Sudan and the region at large. Committee Deputy Chairman Al-Fateh Izzaldine pointed out that Museveni has backed rebellion in Rwanda and other African states.

Quoting JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein, **Ajras Al-Hurriya** reports however that the JEM says reports of its intentions to open a military base in Uganda are "totally baseless". "It suffices to say that the source of this report is the SMC," the JEM Spokesperson said as he lashed out at the pro-government news outlet.

The JEM Spokesperson also accused Khartoum of supporting the LRA and named

Sudanese army officers who reportedly participated actively in LRA campaigns in Darfur.

Sudan Tribune website 15/8/10 reported that JEM strongly denied the veracity of a report published by a pro-government media source on its delegates visiting Uganda and striking a deal with its president to setup a military base there and receive arms supplies.

On Saturday, Sudan Media Center (SMC), which is closely linked to the country's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), carried a report alleging that a delegation of JEM comprising Ahmad Adam Bakhit, Mansur Arbab and Ahmad Nuqua Lisan had "secretly visited Kampala last week" and met with Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni "in the presence of an SPLM's representative".

"JEM categorically denies the reports appearing in local press in Khartoum on Sunday 15 August, which says that a delegation of JEM met with the Ugandan president Museveni," declared a press release on JEM's website.

The movement went on to discredit the report as "a flat-out lie" and a "figment of the imagination of SMC" which "built a career in fabricating news and concocting tales and theatres."

JEM claimed that the government was behind this report to cover up its "conclusively-evidenced" involvement in supporting groups rebelling against the Government of Southern Sudan.

Darfur kidnapers file demands to release Jordan's peacekeepers - report

Sudan Tribune website 15/8/10 - The kidnapers of the two peacekeepers who were abducted on Saturday have submitted their ransom demands to UNAMID, said a report published by a Jordanian daily newspaper.

In its Monday edition the Amman-based daily, Addastour, reported that a Jordanian security source had told them that the abductors have asked the UNAMID to implement a number of demands before the two Jordanian police advisers are released. The newspaper did not elaborate on the details on these demands.

Jordan's Minister of State for Media Affairs Ali Al-Ayed told the official news agency Petra that the Jordanian foreign ministry is following the situation closely in coordination with UNAMID. The two officers were not targeted because of their nationality but because they are part of the hybrid mission, he added.

The two peacekeepers, Ahmed Abdel-Jabbar Al-Qaisi and Nabil Saeed Al-Kilani, were abducted on Saturday while they had been walking to a UNAMID transport point near their residence in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state.

Reacting to the abduction, Paris-based rebel leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur condemned the kidnapping of the two peacekeepers and urged to release them.

Al-Nur accused the Sudanese government and its militias in the region of abducting the

two Jordanian peacekeepers saying, "This operation is part of a scenario designed by the Sudanese security aiming at destabilizing the security situation in the whole region in order to dismantle the IDPs camps in Darfur".

The rebel leader called on the international community to react swiftly to humanitarian situation in the region pointing out that the IDP camps suffer from food shortages and epidemic diseases.

"This is the case not only in Kalma camp but also in other camps like Wadi Saleh in the remote area of West Darfur near the border with the Central African Republic," he said. Adding that the "World should not be an accomplice by its silence and participate in the ongoing Final Solution in Darfur".

Al-Bashir, Afewerki open Sudan-Eritrea road

Al-Ayyam/Al-Khartoum 16/08/10 – President Al-Bashir and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki are set to open next month the Kassala-Allafa road connecting Sudan with its eastern neighbour. Sudan's Presidential Assistance Musa Mohamed Ahmed said that the opening of the Qatar-funded \$12 million road comes within the context of the wishes of the leaderships of the two countries to facilitate the movement of citizens across the borders and to increase trade.

DDR Commissions discuss implementation of programmes

Al-Khartoum 16/8/10 – Sudan Government has called on donors to honour their DDR pledges and to extend additional material and technical support to implement the remaining programmes for this year.

A joint meeting of the northern and southern DDR Commissions, UN and donors discussed the progress of implementation of the DDR programmes in Southern Sudan, eastern Sudan and Darfur.

The Commission has praised the support provided by Japan and Canada for the targeted people in the South particularly the fishing boats for the demobilized combatants.

“We won't tolerate the closure of our office in Mukjar” – SPLM

Khartoum Monitor Khartoum, 16/08/10 – SPLM's Northern sector has condemned the closure of its offices in Mukjar, West Darfur, which was ordered by the County Commissioner Hashim Abakar. A statement by the SPLM said it was not the first time its offices had been closed down, citing earlier closure of its office in Hamashkoreib in eastern Sudan. The SPLM asked the Governor of West Darfur to reopen the office and warned of consequences to of this act.

Ethiopian driver killed and three injured in Rumbek ambush

Sudan Tribune website 15/8/10 - An Ethiopian driver was killed and three people sustained serious injuries on Wednesday in a robbery in Rumbek on the road between Aluakluak Payam of Yirol West County and Akot Payam of Rumbek East County.

Lakes state minister of Local government and Law Enforcement Agency Mabor Mayen Wol, said that a road blocks were being used and a large-scale search was under way. "I am confident we will capture those criminal[s]", he said.

One passenger, Mr. Malual Nhial Mager, managed to jump out of the car and escape to Aluakluak police station when they came under fire.

Mager said the robbers appeared on the road 2 miles away from Aluakluak town and started shooting at random.

The three wounded passengers were first admitted to Akot hospital and then transferred to Mapuordit missionary hospital when their condition is understood to have increased worse.

Mager told Sudan Tribune that, "those who sustained wounds include two young teachers from Yirol West County and one man from Ngok tribe, and small boy being a turn boy to the driver was injured by the vehicle on his leg".

Car robberies and insecurity between Akot Payems of Rumbek East County and Aluakluak Payems in Yirol West County have been occurring since last year.

Lakes state governor Chol Tong Mayay has asked the Ministry of Local Government and Law Enforcement Agency to improve security in Yirol West County. Local Government minister Mabor Mayen, told Sudan Tribune, they were implementing maximum security measures in order to bring the situation under control.

Mayen said that in a separate incident on Friday southern security forces clashed with an armed group wearing military uniform.

"They [had] new military boot[s] – this group are part of Khartoum[‘s] militias – there is no worry at the moment", he said.

Mayen said that disarmament campaigns must continue and security forces had been given orders to capture those responsible for the unrest.

Governor Chol Tong said that police forces lack equipment and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and protection unit need to be given special training.

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