

17th May 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

CPA parties to resume high level talks in Addis on Thursday

Al-Sahafa 17/5/11 – The NCP and the SPLM are to resume high level negotiations in Addis Ababa under AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki to discuss a range of issues particularly oil, currency, debts and other outstanding issues.

SPLM Luka Biong said the talks would continue for three days and both parties would send high level delegations because political decisions are needed to be taken on issues related to Abyei and the border.

NCP accuses SPLM of deploying 15,000 troops along Abyei border

Akhbar Al-Youm 17/5/11 – NCP leading figure Essa Bushra has accused the SPLA of deploying 15,000 troops along North-Sudan border in Abyei.

He denied that the Government has ordered northern traders from taking goods to the South, saying neither the NCP nor the government can do that. He said the traders could not travel southward because the SPLA has deployed troops along the border, adding it is the SPLM that would lose as a result of this measure.

Khartoum business politics will jeopardize relations

Juba Post 17/5/11 – The GoSS on Friday spelled out economic issues that the region is facing ahead of independence. GoSS Minister of Commerce and Industry Stephen Dhieu presented a memo to the GoSS Council of Ministers explaining the economic status of the region. He said there is food shortage and commodity prices are skyrocketing after Khartoum stopped the flow of commodities to southern Sudan. The Minister said peaceful relations between the two regions might be jeopardized should Khartoum continue to block goods to the South.

Meanwhile, northern traders at Konyo-konyo market revealed to the newspaper that the NCP has closed the border, preventing goods from reaching markets in southern Sudan.

UNMIS begins leaving the North

Dailies 17/6/11 – UNMIS has begun relocating its equipment from the North to Juba including from Kadugli, Damazin, Port Sudan, Khartoum and El Obeid. Diplomatic sources have disclosed to the SMC that the Mission was informed five months ago about the need to leave the North and it decided to evacuate by May. According to the sources, the Sudanese Government is serious to lift immunity from UNMIS if the Mission is seen dragging its feet on implementing the directive after July 9 which means it would not be committed to provide protection to the Mission's staff and troops.

Meanwhile, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khaled Musa has denied reports that the Security Council passed resolution relating to Abyei or it modified UNMIS' mandate to act under Chapter VII. Musa has reiterated the Ministry's condemnation of the attack on UNMIS patrol in Abyei, saying his Ministry is keen to ensure free movement for the Mission to carry out

its functions.

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

SPLM reiterates rejection of vote results in southern Kordofan

Al-Akhbar 17/5/11 – The SPLM reiterated its rejection of the results of elections in southern Kordofan, saying it would not participate in the executive and legislative institutions in the state. SPLM Al-Hilu, addressing a rally in Kadugli yesterday, called on the people of the area to get ready for a long and difficult struggle to correct the situation in the state.

SAF says security situation in Southern Kordofan stable

The Citizen 17/5/11 – SAF spokesperson Col. Alsawarmi Khaled told the newspaper yesterday that SAF does not see the situation in southern Kordofan after the announcement of the vote results as tense; it is very quiet and stable.

SPLA maintained a strong presence in the state out of troops that are mostly natives of southern Kordofan. But Khaled says the remaining forces of the SAF in the region are not seen by SAF as militias, but rather as northerners. “There are no militias in the full meaning of the world in southern Kordofan” he said. “But there are some people from the area in the SPLA. He said the SPLA had not moved its troops as UN reported “as observers said that the SPLA withdrew from the north by 33% which means there is 67% still in the north, but in the end they are northerners, so they do not comprise SPLA or militia” he said.

Sudanese journalists arrested over polls coverage, rights group says

Sudan Tribune website 16/5/11 - Two Sudanese journalists have been arrested and interrogated for several hours by security authorities following their coverage of contentious elections in the country’s central state of South Kordofan, according to a local press-freedom watchdog.

The Network of Sudanese Journalists (NSJ), a non-governmental advocacy group, on Monday said that the reporter Mohamed Al-Fatih Hamah of Al-Maydan newspaper, the bi-weekly mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party, and Rashan Awshi of the privately-owned daily Al-Tayyar were arrested by security authorities immediately after their return to the capital Khartoum from South Kordofan State, where they covered legislative and gubernatorial elections.

NSJ reported that the two journalists were arrested by the Sudanese army’s intelligence agents and interrogated for seven hours before being turned over to the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) which subjected them to further interrogation.

“NSG strongly condemns the arrest of Mohamed Al-Fatih Hamah Rashan Awshi,” NSJ said in a press release of which Sudan Tribune received a copy, adding that their arrest was antithetical to two articles in the press law of 2009.

NSJ further called on the Ministry of Justice to investigate the arrest of the two journalists and

bring the perpetrators to account. “NSJ demands that the presidency of the republic safeguards the rights enshrined in the [country’s] interim constitution, international conventions and local laws,” the press release read.

However, NSJ’s press release failed to mention whether the two journalists were released or still in custody.

Other Headlines

Darfur airstrikes let 13 dead, 10 wounded

Radio Dabanga 16/5/11 - Thirteen (13) citizens were killed and 10 people wounded in two consecutive airstrikes in South Darfur. An Antonov plane belonging to the Sudanese Army dropped bombs on the area of Asharaya in Yassin district of Darfur this Sunday morning leading to the death of 12. The second incident happened in the area of Libdo, leading to the death of one.

The first incident began when a citizen working as a registrar at a water pump drove from the water pump to his relatives in a Land Cruiser. Witnesses to the incidents stated that the moment the registrar arrived; the Antonov plane bombed the car, which led to the immediate death of a child, a young boy and the wounding of the driver. All three were civilians. The car and surroundings caught fire as a result of the bombing and led to the death of cattle that were around. Civilians rushed to the place of the incident to put out the fires and upon their return to their houses, the Antonov plane returned and bombed the area leading to the immediate death of 10 people and the wounding of 8 others.

A second incident happened in the area of Labado, South Darfur, where also an Antonov plane bombed two carts two kilometers away from the other air-strikes.

The citizens living in the area of Ashariya condemned the governmental attacks on the citizens and called on the United Nations and the Security Council to interfere to stop the continuing air-strikes in Darfur. They also demanded the opening of an investigation on this incident by a neutral body. One citizen told Radio Dabanga that the deceased people leave behind sixteen widows and a number of orphans. It was confirmed that the citizens refused to bury the bodies until UNAMID and neutral investigators would arrive and look into the matter.

Doctors on strikes as from today

Al-Ahdath 17/5/11 – Physicians have decided to go on strike as from today and for 48 hours until authorities respond to their demands which include improvement of work conditions and payment of entitlements.

A statement received by the newspaper from the doctors’ committee said the strike would be lifted only after the demands are met.

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