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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Interim period likely to be extended for a year

Akhir Lahza 19/4/11 – sources have revealed to the newspaper a tendency by the two CPA partners to extend the Interim Period by one year to allow time for resolution of the contentious issues.

The sources, however, indicated differences among some SPLM leaders over the extension proposal but confirmed that top leaders of the two partners have agreed in principle to consider an extension.

Misseriya holds SPLM responsible for rustling 1050 cattle

Al-Akhbar 19/4/11 – The Misseriya has accused the SPLM of looting 1050 head of cattle and killing three cattle herders yesterday in Abyei. The tribe submitted yesterday a memorandum to interior and defence ministers on the negative activities of the SPLM in the area.

Misseriya Union Chair Mohamed Khatir Guma said the SPLM had launched a fierce attack on the tribe in Um Kadba and Abu Goroon killing three herders and looting 1050 cattle which were distributed among southern tribes to prevent their restoration. He said their memo to the two ministers urged their immediate intervention to restore the looted cattle.

Dinka Ngok youth reject Kadugli Agreement

Akhbar Al-Youm Khartoum 19/04/11 – A youth group in the Abyei region issued a press statement recently “categorically rejecting” the Kadugli Agreements, warning that the Standing Committee would have to bear full responsibility for any military confrontation that may occur as a result of the presence in the Abyei area of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) and pro-NCP militias. They also called on all able-bodied Dinka Ngok youths to join them to fight for the cause.

In response, prominent Misseriya figure Babo Nimir down played the statement, accusing the SPLM of violating the CPA.

AU Mbeki postpones submission of proposal on Abyei

Al-Ahdath 19/4/11 – the newspaper has learned from authoritative sources that AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki had decided to postpone submitting his proposal on Abyei to the Presidency meeting scheduled to convene this week.

Reportedly, Mbeki is seeking to garner a wide international and regional support to his proposal before it is put on the table as it would be the last chance for the two partners to resolve the problem.

Joint political committee to convene today

Al-Sudani 19/04/11 – The Joint Political Committee is set to convene in Khartoum later today to discuss the outstanding issues on post-referendum arrangements. A high ranking source that preferred anonymity said that the parties would discuss issues pertaining to the economy and

would follow up with more talks in Addis Ababa next May.

The source also revealed that the meeting today precedes a meeting of the Presidency expected to take place tomorrow. He said the Presidency might hear a report from the committee on the recommendations concerning the security and humanitarian situation in Abyei.

US, AU commit to help resolve outstanding issues in Sudan

Xinhua 19/4/11 - US Vice President Joe Biden and an African Union (AU) delegation Monday committed to continue their work toward the resolution of the outstanding issues between the north and south in Sudan, particularly the status of the oil-rich Abyei region.

Meeting at the White House with the delegation headed by former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who is chairman of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan, Biden expressed his appreciation for the panel's role in brokering the recent commitment by Sudanese leaders to withdraw northern and southern forces from Abyei and underscored the US commitment to coordinate its efforts with the AU, the White House said in a statement.

Biden and the delegation, which comprises former Nigerian President Abdulsalami Abubakar and former President of Burundi Pierre Buyoya, committed to continue their work together with the parties in Sudan to resolve the outstanding issues under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by July 2011, particularly the issue of Abyei, the statement said.

No oil for the North after secession – Deng Alor

Al-Ayyam 19/4/11 – The SPLM has reiterated its categorical rejection of the NCP's request for a share in southern Sudan's oil for a certain period after secession but the NCP denied that it had made such a request.

Meanwhile, the SPLM said the NCP is dragging its feet and is lacking seriousness to resolve the outstanding issues.

GoSS Regional Cooperation Minister Deng Alor said the NCP is unwilling to resolve the pending issues, indicating the failure of the meeting of the political committee on Sunday due to the absence of the NCP representatives except one with whom the SPLM refused to negotiate.

South Sudan president calls for unity in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state

Sudan Tribune Website 18/4/11 - The president of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) on Monday broke his silence and called for peace and unity amongst the people of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state.

President Salva Kiir made the remark from his Juba office while hosting a joint executive and parliamentary delegation led by the governor of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, Paul Malong Awan Anei. On Saturday, a 12 member delegation arrived in Juba from Northern Bahr el Ghazal via Wau, capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal from where they flew on a chartered plane.

The delegation is said to have held a meeting with youth groups from Northern Bahr el Ghazal in Juba, a day after their arrival and met with Kiir on Monday. Governor Anei was appointed by presidential decree in March 2008 and contested the same seat during 2010 general elections as official candidate of the South Sudan's governing party, the Sudan People's Liberation

Movement (SPLM) with candidates from other political parties including an independent candidate from SPLM...

No autonomy for Blue Nile state – official

Al-Sahafa 19/04/11 – The Secretary-General of the High Council for de-centralised rule says there is no provision in the CPA or the constitution that gives Blue Nile State the right to autonomy. Addressing a press conference yesterday, Al-Amin Dafallah pointed out that Blue Nile State is a north Sudan territory and has the right to demand more development projects but not autonomy.

The head of the Blue Nile parliamentary committee on Popular Consultations, Sirajeldin Hamad, says all the activities related to the Popular Consultations exercise are being carried out in transparency. He denied having received requests from the state legislative assemblies in the Blue Nile state demanding self-rule.

But Blue Nile Governor Malik Aggar reportedly told SUNA yesterday that he has never requested US intervention to seek autonomy for the state as had been reported earlier in the media. He said that these media reports were intended to mislead the people.

No home back home for many Sudan returnees

AFP 19/4/11 - In a village in Sudan's Abyei border region, dozens of families have returned home after living for years in the north, but like so many returnees, many remain camped out in the open and soon the rains will come.

"This country is our country, and that is why we came back," says 77-year-old Nyang Dow Deng Abuol, who brought his family from Khartoum back to Rumameri on the free transport provided by the government of south Sudan.

Sitting in the shade, with children swimming in the nearby river that runs through the village and livestock grazing in the meadow beside the road to Abyei town, 25 kilometres to the northwest, Nyang is sure he made the right decision.

"Whether the situation is good or bad, I am very happy to be here because this is my home," says the father of 11, who moved to Khartoum 30 years ago and raised his family there.

But he knows that by the end of April the dry season will be over, and then, along with thousands of other families in the region sheltering under trees with all their belongings, after making the long truck journey south, he will face severe challenges.

The UN humanitarian agency said on Monday that more than 290,000 people have now returned to south Sudan from the north since October, as well as around 40,000 to the volatile Abyei region.

Their return was prompted by January's referendum on southern independence, the key plank of a 2005 peace accord that ended 22 years of devastating north-south conflict, which resulted in the the south voting almost unanimously to secede.

But a simultaneous vote on whether Abyei should join the north or the south was shelved with

Khartoum and Juba unable to agree on voter eligibility.

So the region's status remains bitterly contested ahead of southern independence in July, adding to the uncertain fate of its returnees, who all belong to the Ngok Dinka tribe and consider themselves an integral part of the south.

Around Rumameri, men and women are hard at work building tukuls, or traditional thatched huts, to house their families and their livestock before the start of the rains.

But at a cost of around 2,000 Sudanese pounds (650 dollars), most of those returning from the north simply cannot afford new homes, in addition to which, there is the difficulty of acquiring land on which to build, a problem the UN describes as "urgent" in neighbouring Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state.

Arop Ayuwel, the village chief, says that US aid agency Mercy Corps has built around 100 houses in the area around Rumameri, to help accommodate the influx of people.

"But it is not enough. So many people have come from Khartoum, and many of them will still be homeless when the rains start," he explains.

For the younger generation, who grew up in Khartoum, the transition is particularly daunting.

"We are worried about what we will do when the rain comes. It's the first time we are in this situation," says Shikora, 17, whose family's belongings are piled up around a tree near the football pitch in Rumameri.

"I came here because my mother told me we were coming south. Khartoum was better, but my family is here so I will stay. There is no one there for me to go back to."

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

VP Taha calls for clean and peaceful elections in southern Kordofan

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 19/4/11 – VP Ali Osman Taha, addressing rallies in Talodi and Abu Jibeiha in southern Kordofan yesterday, has called for the conduct of clean and peaceful elections and stressed the need to maintain security and stability. "We must come out of this elections more strong and unified," he said, adding that enemies should not be availed a chance to rekindle war in the area. He said elections in the southern Kordofan would be like any soccer match and the loser should congratulate the winner.

Sudan Vision 19/4/11 reported that Taha inaugurated a number of projects and called for peaceful, impartial elections in southern Kordofan.

The vice president called on citizens to preserve security and peace for the sake of the state and stressed the importance of not leaving room for those who are trying as hard as possible to exploit elections as a means to return to war.

He urged nominees to show sportsmanship where the loser congratulates the winner, and

affirmed government commitment to Islamic Sharia Laws. He said Sharia reflects the values of sacrifice and justice in addition to banning the violation of people's rights.

National Congress Party (NCP) nominee for the office of southern Kordofan Governor, Ahmed Haroun called on the citizens to stay as powerful in the face of slogans intended to lower the people's morale.

He added that a program which depends on addressing people's emotions rather than addressing their needs will never survive, affirming NCP commitment to support road projects as well as supporting plantation of cotton, outlining importance of building roads in pushing development forwards.

He pointed out that NCP leadership is keen to establish peace for the sake of all citizens in southern Kordofan...

NCP using state's resources in its election campaign

Al-Ayyam 19/4/11 – The SPLM has accused the NCP of using state's resources including the official media in its elections campaign in southern Kordofan state.

A statement said the official media particularly the TV which are funded by the taxpayer are being used in campaigning for the NCP candidate in the area.

SPLM questions visits by President and VP to southern Kordofan

Al-Watan 19/4/11 – SPLM SG in the North Yassir Arman said the visit by VP Ali Osman Taha to southern Kordofan and the prospective visit by President Al-Bashir to the area raise many questions, adding that launching government-sponsored projects as part of elections campaign is a flagrant violation of the elections law. He said the President and his deputy should visit the area as NCP top officials not as top officials of the state.

Sudan Tribune website 18/4/11 reported the SPLM criticized the visit of Taha to southern Kordofan State, accusing him of harnessing state-resources to support his party's candidate in gubernatorial elections there.

Vice-President Taha on Monday visited the central state of southern Kordofan, where electoral campaigns for long-delayed gubernatorial and legislative elections are already underway ahead of the voting on May 5, and inaugurated a number of development projects.

In a press release received by Sudan Tribune, SPLM SG in the North Yassir Arman criticized the National Elections Commission, the body organizing the vote, for what he termed as its silence in the face of the involvement of state media in the electoral campaign of Harun, citing article number 96 of the national elections act which outlaws the use of state-resources in electoral campaigns...

UN mediates to free Kuku

Al-Sudani 19/4/11 – Lawyer of independent candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post Maj. Gen. Telefon Kuku has revealed to the newspaper a mediation by joint committees between the UN and the SPLM to release him.

According to the lawyer, the national committee for support to Kuku's candidature is reportedly putting the final touches of a programme to launch the candidate's campaign on 20 April.

Meanwhile, *Al-Intibaha* 19/4/11 reports that a group of SPLA leaders in Buram Locality in southern Kordofan have warned residents of the area not to push for the release of Kuku, threatening to physically liquidate them if they so demand.

Other Highlights

Sudan rules out peace agreement with JEM in April

Sudan Tribune website 18/4/11 - Sudanese government today criticized the suspension of peace talks by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) which asks Khartoum to renounce a referendum on Darfur administrative status.

The rebel group on Sunday declined to attend a meeting with Sudanese government delegation on wealth sharing and asked the mediation to discuss Darfur administrative make-up first in order to reaffirm Khartoum's commitment to reach a negotiated agreement over the issue in Doha instead of the announced referendum.

The spokesperson of the Sudanese government delegation in the peace talks criticized, in statements made on Monday, the position of the rebel group saying they are far from what is agreed with the other rebel Liberation and Equality Movement (LJM).

Omer Adam Rahma, who was speaking in Khartoum, ruled out the possibility of reaching a deal with JEM before the end of April, stressing that the mediators plan to announce their final peace document at the end of the month.

The mediation urged the parties last month to give their comments and observations on four chapters they generally agree and to develop their points of view on the pending issues particularly the power sharing — Darfur status and Darfur representation at the presidency — and the security arrangements.

A general conference for all Darfur stakeholders is expected to take place by the end of April in Doha to discuss the divergences between the negotiating parties and to adopt a joint position on it.

Among the four chapters, JEM had to hand its observation on the wealth sharing but froze its participation in the talks to protest a presidential decree to hold a referendum on the administrative shape of the region.

The two rebel groups said the referendum is a clear breaching of the framework agreements signed with the government. But LJM kept negotiating announcing they will only be committed to what would be agreed in Doha and reject any measure undertaken unilaterally by Khartoum.

Khartoum refuses to establish a fourth level of power in Darfur between the states and the central government allowing to administrative the whole region by a regional authority.

Security arrest foreign gang counterfeiting dollars

Al-Sahafa 19/4/11 – Security authorities yesterday arrested, in a house in Khartoum, members of a gang who fake dollars. The authorities also seized quantities of black paper and chemical substance used by the gangsters to counterfeit dollars. The gangsters said they had obtained the material from the **UN and embassies of big countries**. According to a legal source, the gangsters are nationals of a neighbouring country and they are being investigated for trial.

Sudan urges UNSC reform

Sudan Vision 19/4/11 - The Sudanese government has affirmed it stands by the calls for reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The government said such procedures should be discussed within regional organizations, such as the Arab League (AL) and African Union (AU).

In receiving the Japanese ambassador to Sudan yesterday at his office, foreign minister Ali Karti said the Sudanese government supports Japan nomination to UNSC membership.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the foreign ministry, Khaled Mousa, said the Sudanese government has lauded Japanese support of Africa.

He added Karti has affirmed the importance of promoting bilateral relations and expressed Sudan's sympathy with the Japanese people...

UNAMID supports rebel movements in Darfur

Al-Wifaq 19/4/11 – the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) reported that UNAMID has committed serious violations in Darfur by providing direct support including intelligence to Darfur rebel movements which are battling the SAF. The SMC also indicated attempts by the mission to exploit civilians in IDP camps to carry out activities inconsistent with the mission's mandate. According to the Centre, UNAMID is providing arms and ammunition to Darfur rebels. It also claimed that the mission contacted some rebel elements in a camp to provide it with information with regard to security situation and breaches committed by the Sudanese government in return for a monthly pay.

Meanwhile, Kasha said he had informed JSR Ibrahim Gambari about his government's categorical rejection of selection by the mission of representatives to take part in Doha talks without consulting with the state government.

Sudanese army helicopter crashes in North Darfur, five killed

Sudan Tribune website 18/4/11 - A military helicopter crashed near the capital of North Darfur state killing the five crew and passengers, the Sudanese army spokesperson announced on Monday attributing the air incident to a technical failure.

Sudan Armed Forces spokesperson, Al-Sawarmi Khalid, said the Mi-17 helicopter went down due to a technical failure as the helicopter was landing.

The wreckage of the Russian-built plane were found at eight kilometers from El-Fasher airport with the support of the hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) which participated in the search operation.

The five dead, two pilots and three military, were in an administrative mission, Al-Sawarmi said without elaboration.

No rebel group claimed the responsibility of the crash.

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