

20 March 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Post-Referendum Watch

- CPA parties postpone talks until Al-Bashir and Kiir meet in Addis (*Al-Tayyar*)
- UNSC holds special session on Abyei and southern Sudan (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Southern Sudanese to vacate 4640 jobs after July 9 (*Akhir Lahza*)
- Second Arabic newspaper to be launched in the South (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Many killed and wounded in SPLA-militias clashes (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Equatoria seeks help from Juba for fighting LRA (*Sudan Vision*)
- Khartoum opens embassy in Juba as South approaches separation (*ST*)
- SPLM to seek strategic relations between north and south Sudan (*Al-Sudani*)
- Tension mounts in SPLM camp over Southern Kordofan elections (*Al-Akhbar*)

## Other Headlines

- UNAMID chief visits inaccessible Darfur war zone (*Radio Dabanga*)
- Sudan concerned over arms spread in Darfur from Libya (*KUNA*)
- Sudan charges three reporters with defamation (*Reuters*)

**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

---

## **CPA parties postpone talks until Al-Bashir and Kiir meet in Addis**

*Al-Tayyar* 20/3/11 – Meetings of the committees for talks between the two CPA parties on post-referendum issues have been postponed until President Al-Bashir and his deputy Salva Kiir Mayardit meet in Addis Ababa by the end of this month, according to sources.

The sources revealed to the newspaper that the CPA parties' negotiations scheduled for today have been deferred until after Addis Ababa's meeting because the guidelines for the work of the committees will be determined by the prospective summit meeting.

The sources added that differences between the two parties over contentious issues continue to exist and the SPLM is still accusing the NCP of supporting militias. The SPLM told the sources that it is in possession of additional documents proving NCP's support to militias and the documents would be revealed in due course.

Meanwhile, *Al-Ahdath* 20/3/11 reports that the SPLM has disclosed new documents proving drive by quarters to destabilize the South. According to one of the documents, SAF has fired an officer on charge of unauthorized disclosure.

Sources have ruled out that the Presidency will hold a meeting today to discuss the crisis over documents. SPLM SG Pagan Amum told the newspaper that what is going on is not a war of documents, rather it is a fact that the NCP is running a war and is supplying arms to militias in the South, adding that the documents were disclosed to prevent killing of civilians.

The SPLM Secretariat issued a press statement yesterday confirming the authenticity of the revealed documents and dismissed Federal Defence Minister's claim that the documents were forged by a former army sergeant.

According to *AFP* 17/3/11, the two parties have agreed to resume talks, mediator and former South African president Thabo Mbeki said on Thursday, after a southern walkout over an alleged plot by Khartoum.

"The decision taken earlier to suspend negotiations, that matter has been addressed and all of the outstanding negotiations will now proceed," Mbeki told a news conference in Khartoum.

Presidents Omar al-Bashir and the south's Salva Kiir agreed at an emergency meeting chaired by Mbeki to act "immediately" to examine documents offered by senior southern officials as proof that Khartoum was backing rebel militias and destabilising the south's government.

"Both the SPLA and the Sudanese Armed Forces will look at all those documents and all those allegations together, to make a determination as to their truth or otherwise," the former South African president said. "They will report back to the presidents by Sunday," he added.

Mbeki said the leaders would also act immediately to address concerns about troop buildups in

the disputed border region of Abyei by implementing an agreement reached in January to boost security in the region.

A monitoring mechanism, chaired by the UN mission in Sudan, will be activated to ensure the redeployment of troops as agreed, Mbeki added, and that "there is no threat that any invasion should take place in Abyei by any of those armed formations."

The future of Abyei is the most sensitive of the issues that Sudan's ruling National Congress Party and the SPLM have to negotiate ahead of southern secession in less than four months time. The agenda also includes borders, citizenship, security and debt.

Mbeki said all the scheduled meetings on pre-independence arrangements, including a second round of economic discussions to be held in Ethiopia next month, would go ahead as planned.

"The negotiations must take place, so that all of the outstanding matters are finalised before July 9. And I'm quite certain we will achieve that outcome," said the former South African leader.

### **UNSC holds special session on Abyei and southern Sudan**

*Al-Sahafa* 20/03/11 – The United Nations Security Council is to hold a special session tomorrow on Abyei and the accusations by the GoSS of SAF's support to southern militias aimed at destabilizing the region. National Security Advisor Salah Gosh and GoSS Minister for Peace Pagan Amum would head their respective delegations to the talks.

Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Luka Biong, said the United Nations Security Council had invited the CPA partners to an important meeting in New York tomorrow to discuss those issues. Also on the agenda is the SPLM decision to halt talks on post-referendum arrangements with the NCP. Biong said the Council might suggest that an independent body such as the AU or the UN participate as a third party at the committee established by the Presidency recently to verify SPLM allegations of SAF support to militia groups in southern Sudan.

Biong expressed confidence that the SPLM would be able to prove those accusations of SAF support to the militias in southern Sudan but said he feared this would have implications on future relations between the two sides and might affect the post-referendum arrangements talks.

In a related story, *Al-Sahafa* reports that Biong has called on the NCP to "tell the Misseriya the truth" with regards to the Abyei issue. He said that failure by the parties to resolve the Abyei problem before 9th July 2011 would mean that they would have to resort to an international arbitration. Should that happen, he said, the South is confident Abyei would be part of it by virtue of the law and on the basis of historic evidence.

### **Southern Sudanese to vacate 4640 jobs after July 9**

*Akhir Lahza* 20/3/11 – The Federal Selection Committee announced that a total of about 4640 jobs currently filled by southern Sudanese in government institutions in the North have so far been identified, adding these jobs will fall vacant by the end of the interim period on 9 July.

Committee chair Ms Awatif Ahmed Babikir said these jobs would be advertised in the media when the interim period ends. She said the jobs would fall vacant because the southerner Sudanese would lose their Sudanese nationality after secession, adding that the vacancies would

be filled in accordance with the Labour & Civil Service Act.

### **Second Arabic newspaper to be launched in the South**

*Al-Akhbar* 20/3/11 – The first issue of “Al-Istiqlal Newspaper”, the second Arabic newspaper in South Sudan, will be published on Monday, days after circulation of the first Arabic newspaper in the South known as “Al Maseer (destiny)”. Gamar Dalman, spokesperson of Al-Istiqlal editorial board, said the newspaper would focus on issues pertaining to building of a new state based on diversity, pluralism, freedom, justice and equality.

According to *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 20/3/11, the first issue of Al-Istiqlal (independence) will appear tomorrow and will focus on defending gains of the people of South Sudan and spearhead anti-corruption campaign.

### **Many killed and wounded in SPLA-militias clashes**

*Al-Ayyam* 20/03/11 – SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer said in Juba yesterday that the SPLA lost 30 fighters and a further 34 are wounded as a result of weekend fighting with militia forces in Upper Nile. The militia, he said, lost 11 elements and suffered 21 injuries.

*According to Reuters* (Khartoum) 17/3/11, South Sudan's army fought militia in two oil-producing states on Thursday, underscoring the challenges ahead as southern leaders agreed to resume talks with the government in Khartoum.

South Sudan's army (SPLA) spokesman Philip Aguer said a 1,000-strong militia had moved from Khartoum last month to Unity state saying they would join the south's separate army but refused to meet southern officials and had begun to illegally tax civilians.

"They came under the pretext that they were coming to join the SPLA but they spent more than one month guarding against integration," Aguer said. "It was just buying time to recruit more soldiers and receive arms from Khartoum."

He said the fighting in Unity had dislodged the militia from their base but that they had yet to receive casualty estimates.

"There will be heavy casualties because they were well armed and the SPLA force which eventually took them on was also well armed," he said.

Aguer said the militia attacked the SPLA during a visit to investigate the taxation complaints early on Thursday and the army responded by attacking their base.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission (UNMIS) Hua Jiang confirmed they had reports of heavy casualties during the Unity state clashes but could not confirm who the victims were. "We have sent patrols out to near the area of the clashes," she said.

Aguer said the two sides had again clashed in Upper Nile on Thursday but said he was still awaiting reports on casualties...

## **Equatoria seeks help from Juba for fighting LRA**

*Sudan Vision* 20/3/11 - GoSS Minister of Information Barnaba Benjamin has said the LRA is not capable of attacking the SPLA.

During a visit to Western Equatoria Benjamin said SPLA will work more effectively to fight LRA, which has been active attacking from Uganda and Central Africa Republic (CAR).

The government of Western Equatoria has sought help from Juba for military support for stopping LRA attacks on unarmed civilians.

The acting governor of West Equatoria, Sabiba Aboya, said LRA has been active since January and called for support from government in Juba for forcing LRA out of the state...

## **Khartoum opens embassy in Juba as South approaches separation**

*Sudan Tribune website* 19/3/11 - The north Sudan government has opened an embassy in Juba, the capital of South Sudan when it becomes independent in July 9 following an overwhelming vote for secession in a referendum in January.

Khartoum's decision to open its embassy in Juba was announced on Friday by the minister of information, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, during the Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce meeting chaired by the Vice President, Riek Machar Teny.

Marial, who presented highlighted priorities on international relations on behalf of the minister of regional cooperation, Deng Alor Kuol, said Khartoum has already established a consulate which will upgrade to a full embassy after July and has posted a diplomatic representative in Juba...

## **SPLM would seek strategic relations between north and south Sudan**

*Al-Sudani* 20/03/11 – SPLM-North leader Malik Aggar said the SPLM would remain united until 9th July when its northern sector would become separate. Addressing the first meeting of the SPLM-North Transitional Leadership yesterday, Aggar who is also Governor of Blue Nile State said that the party would continue to work for a new Sudan in northern Sudan, adding that the party would soon launch a campaign to improve its foreign relations with neighbouring states and would work to establish strategic relations between north and south of the country.

He also said that his party would utilize all its resources towards winning the Southern Kordofan gubernatorial elections.

## **Tension mounts in SPLM camp over Southern Kordofan elections**

*Al-Akhabar* 20/03/11 – The decision by some leaders in the Nuba Mountains area to field Telefon Kuku as a candidate for Southern Kordofan Governor on an independent ticket has not gone down well with the SPLM in the area, according to sources.

Abu-el-Gassim Fartak, a prominent supporter of Kuku, said that local activists are encouraging Telefon Kuku to vie for the position because of his concern for the people and the problems they face.

*The Citizen* 20/3/11 meanwhile quotes Gamar Dalman, an SPLM advisor in Southern Kordofan,

as saying that Telefon Kuku was still an officer of the SPLA and his running as an independent candidate for governor was a violation of the elections law. He accused the NCP of bankrolling Kuku's nomination and has called for the dissolution of the state elections committee for "its persistent violation of the law."

## Other Highlights

### **UNAMID chief visits inaccessible Darfur war zone**

**Radio Dabanga** 19/3/11 - The chief of the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Ibrahim Gambari yesterday visited two frontline outposts of the Sudan Armed Forces and their rebel foes, both located in the East Jebel Marra region. In meetings with combatants during the field mission, Gambari emphasized the "neutrality" of the peacekeepers, which are not present in that contested zone. East Jebel Marra is also cut off from humanitarian aid.

Gambari stopped at Jawa, a Sudan Armed Forces outpost, and Fanga Suk, which is controlled by an alliance of armed movements comprised of the Liberation and Justice Movement and the two main Sudan Liberation Army factions. Jawa lies 9km west of Deribat in South Darfur while Fanga Suk is in West Darfur, located 60 km southwest of Tawilla.

"We want the fighting to stop, we want safe and free access for aid agencies to East Jebel Marra," said Gambari, who leads the UN Mission in his capacity as joint representative of both the African Union and the United Nations.

"Due to continued fighting in the strategic region and mountainous terrain, East Jebel Marra has long proven difficult to access for the majority of aid groups operating in Darfur," UNAMID stated yesterday in a press release. "As a result, humanitarian relief is often out of reach to the thousands affected by the conflict."

JSR Gambari also met with community leaders at both Jawa and Fanga Suk, many displaced by the ongoing fighting, who shared grievances and pleaded for the urgent provision of water, food, health, education and other basic services. In Fanga Suk, residents also implored the JSR to redouble appeals on their behalf for the cessation of aerial strikes.

### **Sudan concerned over arms spread in Darfur from Libya**

**KUNA** 19/3/11 - Sudan voiced Saturday concern over the growing risks associated with unrest in neighboring Libya, particularly the spread of arms among rebels in the disputed Western Province of Darfur.

Ashorooq TV channel, quoted Defense Minister Abdulrahim Mohammad Hussein as saying that the spread of arms would have negative impacts on the stability in Sudan and Chad.

Hussein, who is on a visit to neighboring Chad, said that his ministry is closely monitoring the situation in Libya and prospects of having army weapons fall into the wrong hands.

The top Sudanese military official pointed out that the conflict in the Western region of Darfur was mainly caused by spread of arms among citizens. He revealed that a joint force from Sudan,

Chad and the Central African Republic would cooperate on securing the borders.

Statements by the defense minister reflect fears by Khartoum that rebels in Darfur fighting the central government could boost their arsenal by acquiring weapons in the midst of chaos engulfing Libya.

### **Sudan charges three reporters with defamation**

**Reuters** 19/3/11 - Sudan's security forces have charged three journalists with defamation and publishing lies for writing about a woman who said she was raped, the latest in a wave of press harassment in the war-torn African state.

Youth activist Safiya Eshaq told Reuters she was abducted, beaten and gang raped by plainclothes security men on Feb. 13 after anti-government protests, prompting a public outcry in the conservative Muslim society.

Eshaq fled Khartoum fearing for her life after she spoke out. A source in the security services said her medical and police reports were faked and denied any rape.

Security services this month brought charges of defamation and publishing false information against three journalists who demanded an investigation into the rape, a move the reporters said was aimed at intimidating the media into silence.

"They want to scare people to terrorise the journalists so they don't write about their abuses," said Amal Habbani, who told Reuters on Saturday her paper - *al-Jareeda* - had sacked her fearing retribution from the security services.

"(The government) say they want to move towards democracy so holding an investigation would make them look good," she said, adding she no longer had a lawyer after being sacked. Sudan's constitution guarantees freedom of expression but laws granting wide-ranging powers to authorities are often employed against the Sudanese press.

Journalist Faysal Mohamed Saleh said the charges against them under the media law and the criminal code were punishable by a prison sentence and/or a hefty fine.

"They want to scare us and the papers so no one wants to publish anymore and actually no one has written about this since," he said, adding that charges were brought against him and his paper *al-Akhbar*.

Faiz al-Silaik, deputy chief editor of the opposition *Ajras al-Huriya* paper, was also charged in the latest of a string of court cases against the daily, which is linked to south Sudan's ruling party. He was unavailable to comment on Saturday.

Media freedom campaign group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned the summoning of the journalists, accusing the judiciary of collusion with the security services.

"This is yet another example of a determination to gag the press and curb free expression," RSF Secretary-General Jean-Francois Julliard said in a statement.

"Nothing should be allowed to prevent the media from covering human rights violations in Sudan, which continue to be extremely worrying."...

-----

***United Nations Mission in Sudan - Public Information Office***

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