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Highlights

More than 100 dead in new clashes in Jonglei State of southern Sudan

AFP 22/09/09 - "There is a total of 102 killed, including 51 civilians and 23 of the attackers, and 46 injured," Major General Kuol Diem Kuol, Spokesperson of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) reports.

Kuol told AFP earlier, when the known death toll stood at 76, that 11 SPLA soldiers and 11 other troops were among the dead. "This is not a raid for cattle but a militia attack against security forces," he said.

Tribesmen from the Lou Nuer ethnic group raided the Dinka Hol village of Duk Padiet in Jonglei state on Sunday morning, forcing a company of SPLA soldiers based there to flee.

"It is quite clear that the focus of the attack was on the organised forces themselves," said David Gressly, regional coordinator in Southern Sudan for UNMIS, in charge of monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between north and south Sudan.

"It is way too early to call this a civil war, but it is a significant law and order problem and one that the government of southern Sudan need to stand up and address," he told AFP on Monday after visiting the area.

"Certainly as long as there is a huge, large, quantity of weapons, as long as these tensions exist, the potential is there for further deterioration of the security situation, something we are quite concerned about, and I think the government of southern Sudan is quite concerned about," Gressly added.

A reconciliation conference between the main tribes of Jonglei state was planned for September 30 but has been postponed, a local source told AFP.

On International Day of Peace, UN calls for nuclear weapons disarmament

Radio Miraya FM - On the occasion of International Day of Peace, the United Nations has called for a world free of nuclear weapons. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, says governments and citizens should focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The UN says everyone can take action by signing up to the declaration, supporting the Secretary General's move to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The UN has coined the slogan: "We Must Disarm" or WMD for this year's International Day of peace. The International Day of Peace was declared by the UN General Assembly in 1981 to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among all nations and people.

CPA partners in new drive to overcome differences over referenda

The High Executive Committee of the NCP and the SPLM start meetings in Khartoum tomorrow to continue discussions over key issues including the draft referendum bill, **Al-Raed** reports. Sources say Vice-President Taha and GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar, co-chairs of the Committee, will hold an informal meeting this evening to set the agenda for the two-day meeting during which they will try to bridge the gap between them on outstanding issues.

SPLM calls on NCP to stop obstructing the draft referendum bill

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum has called on the NCP to stop "putting obstacles before the fate of the people of southern Sudan, **Al-Akhbar** reports. Amum was referring to the failure by the two parties to reach an agreement over the draft referendum bill.

In an interview with **Radio Miraya FM**, the SPLM SG also underlined the need to reach an agreement over the bill before the end of this year.

According to **Al-Ahdath**, Amum also welcomed an NCP participation at the Juba Conference of political parties scheduled to take place on 29th September. He expressed hopes that such an NCP participation at the conference would help put an end to the "totalitarian dictatorship" through which the NCP runs the affairs of the country.

Calm returns to Malakal

The Commissioner Chan Alak of Malakal County in Upper Nile State reports that security forces are conducting 10:00pm to 06:00am patrols to "rid the town of gangs that are causing unrest". According to **Al-Ahdath** state authorities had clashed with supporters of the County Commissioner last Sunday when the state government ordered that all signboards carrying the new name of the state capital be removed. County Commissioner Alak slammed the government's crackdown on the posters and backed his decision to rename the town from Malakal to Makal. He said that the decision was in line with the visions of the late Dr. John Garang.

Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal launches civilian disarmament campaign

The Government of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State launched yesterday a state-wide civilian disarmament campaign, reports **Al-Ahdath**. Bahr-el-Ghazal State Police Director, Akot Deng Akot, revealed that the campaign is in line with the GoSS directives to wipe out illicit arms. He said that the first day of the operation was successful.

Messeriya leader denies historical border with Dinka Ngok

Sudantribune.com *Muglad, 21/09/09* - Leaders from the Messeriya tribe in the Southern Kordofan town of Muglad today strongly denied having any historical border with the Dinka Ngok. In an interview with **Sudan Tribune**, Mr. Hassan Musa, one of the longest serving traditional Messeriya leaders, said his clan does not recognize any border demarcation between them and Dinka Ngok.

We have never had any border to be demarcated with Dinka Ngok in the past, therefore, I do not see reason why the border demarcation technical team is in Muglad to consult with local leaders here today, he said.

On September a joint technical team including international observers arrived to Abyei announcing the start of the border demarcation. They met with local leaders of the Dinka Ngok and arrived to Muglad to assess the Messeriya's point of view.

Explaining why they were unable to meet the demarcation team in Abyei, Musa said his clan would accept to cooperate in the demarcation only if another agreement on the Abyei boundary is forged.

"My house and all personal belonging including relatives are in Difra, (located at the extreme north of Abyei). Is Difra going with me, he posed blaming the ruling for having given the Dinka big portions of the area.

However, Mukhtar Babo, a paramount chief in the area downplayed Musa's remarks and reaffirmed his clan's commitment and compliance to the ruling expressing readiness to extend a help hand to the border demarcation technical team.

"I would like to encourage citizens from both sides to remain in good terms just as Sultan Deng Majok and Babo Nimir, used to be in the past;" he said adding, because of this relation, Sultan Deng Majok transferred Ngok Chiefdom to Kordofan instead of Bahr el Ghazal in 1905.

"This should be encouraged," he stressed.

GoSS Interpol move sparks row with NCP

Radio Miraya FM - The Government of Southern Sudan's (GoSS) move to become part of the international police network, known as Interpol, has sparked a row between the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) and its CPA partner, the National Congress Party (NCP). The Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development in GoSS, Michael Makuei told Miraya FM that Southern Sudan had the right to be represented in Interpol.

He said the move was legal and constitutional as it was in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The NCP had earlier condemned the move by the southern government, describing it as "illegal".

SPLM cites three possibilities for political alliance

According to GoSS Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Luka Monoja, the SPLM is considering three scenarios for a political alliance with the different political forces in the country, reports **Al-Ahdath**. These include an alliance with the NCP for the implementation of the CPA and for building a modern democratic state; the second scenario is to form a rainbow alliance with the other political parties against the NCP; while the third is that the SPLM may decide to stand alone in its struggle to build a new Sudan. He pointed out that the third option will pose a major challenge since the SPLM would then have to face all the other political forces.

Sudan says no to hybrid courts for Darfur crimes

Sudantribune.com Washington, 21/09/09 - Sudan will not accept any recommendations by an African Union (AU) commission recommending hybrid courts to try Darfur war crimes suspects, the head of a pro-government group said.

Fathi Khalil who leads the Sudanese bar association told the Hague based Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) that any such step is in violation of the country's laws. "The Sudanese constitution and laws reject the participation of foreign judges in Sudanese courts," Khalil said.

"We have an independent and fair judicial system and so there is no need for hybrid courts," he added.

A panel headed by former South African president Thabo Mbeki is wrapping up a set of recommendations for submission to the AU in the coming weeks on harmonizing accountability in Darfur with seeking peace. Sudanese figures interviewed by the panel have overwhelmingly dismissed the ability or willingness of the Sudanese judiciary to prosecute Darfur criminals.

Barney Afako, a spokesperson for the AUPD told IWPR that things are far more complex than prosecuting the perpetrators of war crimes. "We shouldn't just concentrate on the narrow context of justice, but on the long-term stability of Sudan," he told IWPR. "Stability in Sudan is crucial for the whole region. Nine states border the country, and all are directly affected by conflict within its borders.

"Moreover, Sudan reflects many of the diversities that other African countries have. If these differences can co-exist in Sudan, this sends a powerful message to other countries in the region. That is why a solution must be found for Sudan and why the African Union is investing this kind of support," he added.

It remains to be seen how Khartoum will react to the findings of the panel but Khalil said Sudan is open to a South Africa style Truth and Reconciliation Commission only.

A senior official at the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) in New York, who asked not to be named, told Sudan Tribune last week that he expects the panel to make a finding that the Sudanese judiciary "is unable and unwilling to carry out credible and genuine prosecutions in Darfur".

Government accuses western states for backing SLM's Abdulwahid

Sudan is accusing western states of backing SLM-Abdulwahid to “flare up” the conflict in Darfur, *Al-Ahdath* reports. State Minister for Information, Kamal Obeid, said that these states know that Abdulwahid has no chance to make military gains on the ground. He pointed out that what recently happened in North Darfur is proof of government’s ability to resolve those issues. “Abdulwahid and his group have no option but to negotiate peace,” he added.

SLM-Abdulwahid rejects UNAMID presence in Jebel Marra and Kornei

UNAMID has revealed that SLM-Abdulwahid does not want UNAMID’s presence in the Jebel Marra and Kornei areas in Darfur, reports *Al-Ahdath*. UNAMID Spokesperson Nouredine Mezni pointed out that the SLM claims that these areas are located outside the areas covered by the Abuja Peace Agreement and are thus out of the jurisdiction of UNAMID. The SLM further said that it would not cooperate with UNAMID in those areas.

UNAMID has expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in the area following recent clashes there.

Darfur armed groups accused of recruiting child soldiers

UNHCR has accused the armed groups in Darfur of recruiting children taken from the refugee and IDP camps in Chad, *Al-Ahdath* reports. The UNHCR says it intends to transfer such camps that are close to the Chadian border with Sudan deeper into Chadian territory because of this reason.

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