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Post-Referendum Monitor

Committee to be formed to address future status of SPLA northerners

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/02/11 – Addressing a meeting organised by the NCP women's office, President al-Bashir said that military committees would soon be formed to address the issue of the future of northern Sudanese in the ranks of the SPLA. Those who are fit would be enlisted in the ranks of the SAF or the Sudan Police, *Al-Raed* quotes him as saying.

Al-Bashir also reiterated commitment to form an anti-graft commission and a council that would look into graduate employment issues. He encouraged all Sudanese with grievances to table these grievances before the relevant parties.

The president called for an end to tribalism and racism, pointing out that these were to blame for opening up the country to foreign intervention.

Al-Bashir further pointed out that his government and National Congress Party (NCP) get their legitimacy from the Islamic Sharia and pointed out that he feels no shame in implementing the penal code as prescribed by the Islamic laws.

The president reiterated his resolve to make of Sudan a model of stability in the African region.

JlUs to remain in Abyei until 9th July

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/02/11 – The Ceasefire Political Committee (CPC) has resolved that the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), with the exception of those in Abyei, disengage by 9th April 2011 with the SAF and SPLA contingents redeploying to their respective sides of the north-south border. The forces stationed in Abyei would maintain their positions until 9th July, the two sides agreed.

Al-Dirderi Mohamed Ahmed who heads the NCP side in the CPC said that the two sides agreed that the parties to the CPA would then decide on the future of the JIUs positioned in Abyei during this period. The parties, he adds, have also resolved to form a joint committee under UN supervision to investigate the 9th February incidents that occurred in Abyei.

On the JIUs stationed in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State, Al-Dirdeiri said that the parties have agreed that the disengagement order would also cover those forces and that a committee would be dispatched to those areas.

On his part, the head of the SPLA side to the talks said that the issue of redeployment of SPLA forces from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile has been under debate for a long time especially through the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) and the Joint Defence Board (JDB) that both failed to verify SPLA redeployment south of the borders. The committee, he said, has requested the CJMC and the JDB to verify the issue and report back at the next meeting. He pointed out that the SPLA maintains that it has redeployed its forces south of the borders and that those who remain are elements from other armed groups. He called on the joint committee to go over to these areas to verify for themselves on the SPLA presence in those areas. The committee has also asked the JDB to come up with a detailed redeployment schedule and to designate assembly areas for the forces thus redeployed.

The meeting also resolved that international monitors continue in their duties related as far as the redeployment of the forces is concerned. The two sides, he noted, still need UNMIS as witnesses at the end of the Interim Period.

Parliament goes on recess – back in April without some members - Speaker

Akhir Lahza Omdurman, 24/02/11 – Parliament has called a recess and would resume business in April. Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir said however that parliament would return to business without some of its current members.

The Speaker's statement did not go well with the SPLM lawmakers who have resolved to meet today to decide on a specific position on the issue.

60% of southern Sudanese workers “without skills” – GoSS VP

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 24/02/11 – GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar has called on southern Sudanese university teaching staff to make use of their knowledge to help build the new state in southern Sudan. He underlined the need for the establishment of research and curricula development institutions in the region, pointing out that about 60% of southern Sudanese workers have no skills.

GoSS preparing to bombard us - Athor

Al-Raed Khartoum, 24/02/11 – Renegade SPLA General George Athor claims that the SPLA is amassing its troops to bombard his positions including with the use of aircraft. He threatened to respond in kind to any SPLA attack on his military positions.

Speaking from his base in southern Sudan, Athor assured southern Sudanese that his forces are prepared to address any eventuality.

NCP, Umma differ over form of government

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/02/11 – The NCP and Umma parties have agreed to continue dialogue on a number of issues relating to the constitution, national accord and the structure of government. The meeting that was held at the Republic Palace was co-chaired by Nafie Ali Nafei (NCP) and Sidig Mohamed Ismail (National Umma Party) however failed to reach agreement on participation in government.

Other Highlights

Protestors in West Darfur urge UNAMID to employ them

Sudan Vision Al-Geneina, 24/02/11 – Hundreds of graduates and some IDPs organised a peaceful demonstration yesterday in front of the UNAMID offices in Al-Geneina, West Darfur, calling on the Mission to employ people from the state to vacant positions in the organisation.

The protestors formed a committee to meet with the UNAMID chief in West Darfur to discuss the issue.

Sudan says cancellation of VPs address in Blue Nile caused by ill-preparation

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 23/02/11 - Sudan on Wednesday said that the cancellation of Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha's address in the Blue Nile State two days ago was prompted by lack of “proper preparations.”

Taha's failure to address a public rally in the stadium of the capital of Blue Nile State Damazin on Tuesday was attributed to the presence of hostile crowd bearing signs critical of the Khartoum government and demanding autonomy for the state.

The Vice-President visited the state on Monday and inaugurated the project heightening the Roseires Dam.

Officials organizing the events and the Blue Nile governor Malik Aggar said that Taha could not attend because he had to attend to urgent issues in Sudan's capital Khartoum.

But the governor's alibi contrasted with a statement released on Wednesday by the Presidency of the Republic which said that the cancellation was decided by the Blue Nile government in consultation with the organizing committee due to lack of "proper preparations" for the rally.

South Sudan police academy mired in abuse scandal

AP Juba, 24/02/11 - U.N. investigators say police recruits were beaten to death, sexually assaulted and forced to stand for hours in the blazing sun as part of a training program funded by international donors, demonstrating the challenges ahead for what will soon be the world's newest nation.

Some of the 6,000 recruits who took part in a yearlong program to train new officers to promote stability in the war-torn region say they were raped and were beaten with sticks. U.N. investigators found that at least two trainees died from injuries.

The academy had received more than \$1 million from the U.N. Development Program with promises of more aid. Now, international donors have suspended their support to the Rajaf police academy pending further investigation. Plans for the next class of recruits are on hold.

"Our rights as recruits were not respected," one man in his mid-20s told The Associated Press. He detailed how he and his fellow recruits were beaten with sticks, kicked, "made to roll on the ground" and forced to crawl on their hands and knees as punishment.

The recruit decided to sign up for the police training after living as a refugee in neighboring Uganda and finding others jobs hard to come by in the desperately poor Southern Sudanese capital city of Juba. Instead of opportunity, he says he found despair.

"It made me lose my hope completely. I had no idea I would enter such a life, otherwise I would not have joined," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

The academy was designed to create a "new guard" of police officers who had not experienced the brutal combat endured by tens of thousands of Southern Sudanese guerrilla fighters during the civil war. Instead, recruits at the facility described being deeply traumatized by some of these former guerrilla fighters, who are now serving as "commandos" in the southern army.

The human rights unit of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Sudan investigated in December and January and said "many recruits died during the course of the year." About 700 recruits did not finish the program. Human rights groups have been unable to independently confirm how many deaths occurred.

"Evidence is sufficient enough to conclude that a pattern of human rights violations ranging from extrajudicial killings, rape, and attempted rape, to inhumane, cruel and degrading treatment," said a letter sent by the U.N. human rights unit to the inspector general of the Southern Sudan Police Service in January.

At least 400 women were in the academy when the class started in January 2010, although it is unclear how many females graduated the following December.

"Female recruits were compelled without their consent on diverse occasions to have sexual intercourse with some of the trainers at the training center," it said. The letter argued that "high-ranking officers knew or ought to have known" of such violations.

The southern government's Minister of Internal Affairs Gier Chuang Aluong refused repeated interview requests, referring the **AP** to a list of steps taken to address the allegations. Those included his ministry's proposal that southern president Salva Kiir appoint a commission to investigate the alleged abuses. No commission has yet been set up to do so.

Joe Feeney, the head of office for UNDP in Southern Sudan, said international officials are "deeply concerned by the allegations put forward."

At a cafe in Juba, the young disillusioned recruit now faces deployment to a new post. He signed up for the police training in hopes it would provide a decent salary in a place where few are found

He's still waiting to start earning \$3 a day, but says dejectedly: "I'm not really interested anymore."

Sudan & AU break silence on Libya as death toll rises

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 23/02/11 - The Sudanese government issued a statement reacting to events in Libya and called on the latter to exercise "self-restraint" and cease "use of force" in the face of burgeoning demonstrations against the four-decade rule of Muammar Gaddafi.

Sudan's foreign ministry on Wednesday said it was gravely concerned by reports of mounting violence against civilians, advising Libya to refrain from use of forces against demonstrators, as reported by the country's official news agency (SUNA).

"The ties of brotherhood, neighborhood, history and shared fate obliges Sudan to advise the Libyan leadership on the necessity of ceasing the use of all forms of violence against the Libyan people and resolve disputes in peaceful ways in order to spare the Libyan people more bloodshed," the ministry said in its statement.

The ministry warned that failure to de-escalate the situation would reflect negatively on regional stability.

The spokesman of Sudan's foreign ministry, Khalid Musa, on Monday said that Darfur rebels could be involved in Libya's clashes after reports emerging from the country suggested that Gaddafi is using "African mercenaries" to quell the uprising.

But JEM's spokesman Ahmad Hussein strongly condemned the ministry's suggestion, accusing it of inciting anti-Sudanese hatred and endangering the lives of its own citizens in Libya.

In a related development, Sudan has formed an emergency taskforce to assist its citizens who are trying to flee Libya.

Karar al-Tohami, head of the committee, told *Reuters* 100-200 people had already fled across the remote border to Sudan and were being housed in a camp and that they were considering using military planes if necessary to evacuate civilians from Libya.

Tohami said that Sudanese military planes will evacuate as many as 500,000 of its citizens.

The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council today also issued a statement condemning the "indiscriminate and excessive use of force and lethal weapons against peaceful protesters in violation".

"The aspirations of the people of Libya for democracy, political reform, justice and socio-economic development are legitimate" stressing that the "territorial integrity and unity" should be preserved.

AU commission chairman Jean Ping said in separate remarks that he is in contact with Libyan authorities as part of his efforts to put an end "to the spilling of the blood".

Ping stressed that "only dialogue and consultation will enable the Libyans to find appropriate solutions to the challenges facing their country and to embark upon the necessary reforms to fulfill the aspirations of their people".

The Pan-African body said it will send a mission to Libya to assess the situation there.

Amnesty International noted its criticism of the AU for failing to address the events in Libya.

Foreign ministry jeopardising the lives of Sudanese in Libya

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/02/11 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has jeopardised the lives of members of the Sudanese community in Libya with its recent statements claiming that elements of some Darfur armed groups are involved in quashing anti-government protests in Libya.

Opposition leader Ismail Fadhul described those accusations as "irresponsible", claiming that the ministry sought to "settle scores" with the rebel movements after failure of a military solution and peace talks to resolve the rebellion.

"Such statements would turn the Libyan protestors against all Sudanese in that country," he said.

SPLM refutes hostility to other political southern parties

Sudantribune.com Abyei, 23/02/11 - A key member of the SPLM on Wednesday refuted media reports that his party is hostile to other political parties in the region, saying they are equal partners in the government and political activities.

Radio Omdurman, quoted an anonymous southern political, on February 22, as accusing the SPLM of being hostile to other political leaders and their members, especially Members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) of Lam Akol and the United Democratic Party (UDP) of Tong Lual Ayat.

"We are not hostile to any political party and their Members anywhere in the region. We treat other political parties and their members as equals either in the executive or legislative", said Daniel Awet Akot who is a deputy speaker of the Juba based South Sudan Legislative Assembly.

"In the parliament we are equal members of parliament and equal cabinet members in the council of ministers. There is no subordination and subjugation," he said.

Awet is a member of the SPLM political bureau, the highest political organ in the party.

Speaking to *Sudan Tribune* on Wednesday, Awet, challenged *Radio Omdurman* to mention the place in which the incident occurred.

"They even failed to mention the place where the reported incident took place and also refused to name the name of the political leader or member", said Awet. He described the report run by Radio Omdurman as false and malicious and that it is calculation and propaganda by enemies of peace to create chaos and disunity among political leaders in the South.

Darfur mediators deliver new proposals to Sudanese parties

Sudantribune.com Doha, 23/02/11 - The mediators for peace in Darfur handed Tuesday to the Sudanese parties new proposals on six disputed issues they failed to agree upon it. They further plan to submit a final agreement by the end of the month.

Qatar's state minister for foreign affairs Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, and the Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole urged the parties to "engage seriously with these proposed texts as a framework for peace, and conduct direct consultations and talks amongst themselves with a view to achieving a consensus on the final document by the end of this month."

The six new proposals tackle the issues of Power Sharing; Wealth Sharing; Compensation and Return of IDPs and Refugees; Justice and Reconciliation; Permanent Ceasefire and Security Arrangements; and Human Rights.

Besides the Sudanese government delegation currently in Doha, the new set of compromises was handed to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Liberation and Equality Movement (LJM).

LJM top negotiator, Tadjadine Bechir Niam, told Sudan Tribune that the new proposals separated between the positions of Vice-President of the republic and the Chairman of Darfur Regional Authority.

He further added that they are studying the new compromise and will submit their position to the mediation within two days. He emphasized that they would be guided in their decision by the interests and demands of Darfur people.

He however did not rule out the possibility of emitting reservations over some points adding "why not, Khartoum did it last December".

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