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Post-Referendum Monitor

- North and south Sudan ink security deal (*Al-Sahafa*)
- No military targets in Raja – SAF (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- NCP expresses readiness for talks on early elections (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- GoSS drafts new constitution with no major changes (*Al-Sahafa*)
- South Sudan says north bombs its territory (*Reuters*)
- It's a mistake to think the UNSC holds the solutions to Abyei – Misseriya (*Al-Wifaq*)
- UN funds return of some 5,800 southerners stranded in Kosti (*Sudan Vision*)

Other Highlights

- UN oversight: Sudan mission success limited (*AP*)
- Ex-adviser for Salva Kiir launches new rebellion in South Sudan (*Sudan Vision*)
- Demining program to be handed over to local authorities (*Gurtong.net*)
- Sudan to establish border points to cut down on illegal immigrants (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Traders take issue with price controls in Lakes State (*Radio Miraya*)
- Foreign investors acquire 2.64 million hectares in southern Sudan, NPA says (*Gurtong.net*)
- 2000 Southern children live in the North without parental care (*Gurtong.net*)
- Sudanese authorities to implement "additional safety measures" (*Al-Khartoum*)

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Post-Referendum Monitor

North and south Sudan ink security deal

Al-Sahafa Juba, 24/03/11 – The Federal Ministry of Defence and the GoSS Ministry for SPLA Affairs signed a deal yesterday of the security cluster on post-referendum arrangements to “facilitate the elimination of the obstacles to the implementation of security issues between the two sides and regulate the work of the two armies along the joint borders.”

The agreement signed in Juba yesterday also underlined the need to discuss UNMIS’ mandate beyond 9th July 2011.

The two sides also mentioned the status of the JIUs in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states and the status of southern Sudanese associated with the SAF.

AUHIP chief, Thabo Mbeki, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said that discussions between the two sides on the outstanding issue reflects the level of commitment by the two sides to resolve those issues.

No military targets in Raja - SAF

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/03/11 – In an apparent response to recent accusations by the SPLA of a SAF bombardment near the border areas in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled says the Sudan Air Force has not carried out any sorties in the area. He said the SAF has no military targets around the Raja area where the bombings were said to have taken place.

NCP expresses readiness for talks on early elections

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/03/11 – The NCP has said it does not object to holding talks with the political parties over prospects for elections once the new constitution is endorsed and is ready to discuss early elections. NCP Spokesperson Fathi Shila told reporters yesterday that the government, however, would not accept any challenge to its legitimacy as it came through elections and is legitimate for the next four years.

Shila noted that the Sudan government continues to seek dialogue with the political parties despite their “hostile attitude”. Asked about the perceived contradiction in the NCP position with regards opposition parties against the background of threats by some NCP officials to wipe out the opposition, Shila said the NCP position is to reciprocate in kind with the opposition forces. “We used force at the beginning but only realized peace when we sat down to talk. We would therefore not abandon the wish to talk,” he said.

In a related development, the National Umma Party reports that it held a meeting with representatives of the NCP at the Republican Palace yesterday and agreed on about 85% of issues pertaining to the national agenda they seek. Party Secretary-General Sidig Mohamed Ismail did not disclose what the outstanding issues were but said that those issues would be referred to a meeting of the leaders of the two parties.

GoSS drafts new constitution with no major changes

Al-Sahafa Juba, 24/03/11 – The technical committee charged with a reviewing the post-separation constitution of southern Sudan is expected to table before the southern cabinet next week a draft of the document. Sources privy to the review process intimate that the draft has no

major changes with regards the structure of government and the interim period.

The sources note that the draft mainly dropped all provisions concerning the federal government and added provisions on sovereignty of the nascent state, foreign policy, migration laws, elections, an elections commission, a law regulating political activities and nationality issues.

South Sudan says north bombs its territory

Reuters Khartoum, 23/03/11 - South Sudan's army (SPLA) on Wednesday accused the north of bombing its territory, violating a 2005 peace deal ahead of the oil-producing region's independence.

SPLA spokesman Philip Aguer said the north dropped bombs on March 21 between a village and an SPLA base causing no casualties in Raja County in Western Bahr al-Ghazal, which borders the north's war-torn Darfur region.

Sudan's northern army denied it had carried out any bombing raids near the area.

"Strategically it does not make military sense for us to bomb an empty area," spokesman al-Sawarmi Khaled said.

The north-south U.N. peacekeeping mission (UNMIS) said it had reports from the SPLA of bombing raids and had sent a patrol to investigate.

On Wednesday, the Satellite Sentinel Project, set up by actor George Clooney and other activists to monitor troop movements, released satellite images of Abyei - a central region claimed by both north and south - which they said showed the north had sent further troops into the flashpoint region.

Sudan's Interior Ministry denied reports by the south that it had sent 1,500 extra police to Abyei but the group said it had images confirming otherwise.

"Satellite imagery confirms reports of the deployment of large numbers of northern forces as well as newly fortified encampments," Charlie Clements, director of human rights documentation of the project, said in a statement.

It's a mistake to think the UNSC holds the solutions to Abyei – Misseriya

Al-Wifaq Khartoum, 24/03/11 – The Abyei Area Administration has expressed “full understanding” of the role mediators have played to help resolve the problem of Abyei but notes that the area is under the administration of the Presidency and solutions have to come from that institution.

Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Abdalla Nur that attempts by the SPLM to seek United Nations Security Council assistance to resolve the issues do not serve the quest for solutions. “The solutions lie with the Presidency and not the United Nations Security Council or the UN,” he said. Rahama pointed out that they at the Administration are awaiting the arrival to Abyei of the committee established recently by the Presidency so they would see for themselves the situation on the ground.

He said that the Misseriya are fully committed to the Kadugli Agreement.

UN funds return of some 5,800 southerners stranded in Kosti

Sudan Vision Khartoum, 24/03/11 – The UN Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has provided \$1.7 million to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) to assist in the tune of 5,800

southern Sudanese returnees stranded in Kosti. Two barges carrying the returnees left Kosti two weeks ago but their arrival in Malakal and Juba was delayed due to the latest events in southern Sudan, Alta Haggarty, the finance chief at the Common Humanitarian Fund, told a press conference at the Hotel Salam Rotana yesterday. She said that the CHF has also spent some \$104 million in urgent humanitarian assistance in the sectors of health, education, mine action, nutrition, water and sanitation in both north and south Sudan. Alta said that these programmes had been implemented through UN agencies and international and national implementing partner NGOs.

The UN official also informed the media that the UN is still discussion about the future of the UN Work Plan 2011 (USD1.7 billion in allocations) and how it would be implemented as the south is set to break away by July 2011. She said that all decisions would be taken in consultations with all stakeholders.

UN OCHA had organised a two-day workshop (22-23 March) to review the CHF allocations during the first quarter of 2011 and discussed proposals and recommendations over the way forward.

Other Highlights

UN oversight: Sudan mission success limited

AP UN, 23/03/11 - The U.N. mission established in Sudan in 2005 to monitor that country's peace agreement has helped maintain a cease-fire between the north and south but otherwise has had limited success, the world body's independent oversight office said Wednesday.

The report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services was circulated a little more than a month before the mandate for the peacekeeping mission known as UNMIS expires April 30.

It comes as the U.N. Security Council begins considering the mission's future after Southern Sudan secedes from the north in July following a peaceful vote for independence early this year.

The options include renewing the mission's mandate and expanding it to include the north-south border. The 15-member council also could expand a separate U.N. mission in Sudan's tumultuous Darfur region to help monitor the border, or create a new, separate mission to exclusively patrol the north-south line.

One of UNMIS' greatest past failings has been its inability to protect civilians during violence in 2008 and 2009, something that has "negatively affected its credibility and legitimacy," the report said.

The oversight office helps Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meet his responsibilities of overseeing U.N. resources and staff through monitoring, internal audit, inspection, evaluation and investigation.

Its report on UNMIS said the mission "has made progress" but has "contended with serious challenges, which have hampered its success."

It said in its first years, the fighting in Darfur forced the mission to focus on that region rather than the peace agreement that ended the north-south civil war.

UNMIS also has suffered from high vacancy rates in key positions, including the head of mission job that stayed open for more than a year. The peacekeeping operation and the U.N. country team in Sudan also have not worked together in many cases, the report said, but have begun

coordinating better over the past year.

The oversight office laid out recommendations for improvement, including the development of a tighter working relationship between the U.N. peacekeeping and U.N. country operations, more thorough reporting of human rights violations, and advance planning on how to successfully leave Sudan when peacekeepers fulfil their mandate.

Ex-adviser for Salva Kiir launches new rebellion in South Sudan

Sudantribune.com Juba, 23/03/11 - A former adviser for GoSS President Salva Kiir has declared war against the semi-autonomous government, a spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) announced on Tuesday.

The SPLA spokesperson Colonel Philip Aguer said in a televised statement today from Juba that army General, Abdel-Bagi Ayii, from Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal state, has rebelled but did not give a reason for this move.

Major General Ayii was a presidential adviser to Kiir, until the government was reshuffled after the 2010 April elections.

He joins a growing list of disgruntled militias officers in the South who decided to take arms which now includes George Athor and David Yauyau in Jonglei state and Gatluak Gai in Unity state, and Oliny in Upper Nile state.

Last week Major General Ayii made an interview to *Sudanese Media Center (SMC)*, a website closely linked to the country's intelligence circles, in which he accused the SPLM leadership of corruption and giving preferential treatment to some figures.

He also claimed that Muslims in South Sudan suffer discrimination citing examples of properties were taken away from them and given to foreign investors.

Demining program to be handed over to local authorities

Gurtong.net Juba, 23/03/11 -The Southern Sudan Demining Authority has revealed that international organizations working in mine clearing in the South will hand over a demining program to local authorities by July. However, the Chairperson of the Demining Authority, Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, says he fears that the program may collapse due to funding problems.

Addressing a press conference in Juba Tuesday, Jurkuch revealed that over 900 Southerners were killed and many more injured by anti-personnel landmines since 2005.

Jurkuch said landmines have been cleared from over six million square meters of land in the region, mainly from around the main roads but threats from contamination still exist on feeder roads and some agriculture areas.

Meanwhile, The Capacity Development Technical Advisor in the UN Mine Action program, Stephen Pritchard, said that his organization will continue to support the region's demining authorities after independence.

Sudan to establish border points to cut down on illegal immigrants

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/03/11 – Authorities in Sudan have started preparations to set up border points at the borders with Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea and southern Sudan to promote cross-border trade and cut down on illegal immigrants, drug trafficking and smuggling.

Finance Minister Ali Mahmoud said at a meeting yesterday with the Minister of Interior and representatives of customs, taxation and security organs that his ministry was prepared to foot the SDG64 million bill.

Traders take issue with price controls in Lakes State

Radio Miraya Rumbek, 22/03/11 - Traders in Rumbek have faulted the authorities in Lakes State over attempts to enforce price controls on certain commodities.

"If the Government persists, then we will stop selling because you can't sell at a loss," warned fuel dealer Abraham Chol Majok of Dalbit Company. He argued that commodity prices were being pushed up by transportation and other costs.

Majok said the rise in the price per litre of gas at filling stations in Rumbek from SDG 2.70 to SDG 3.50 was triggered by a 40% hike in Khartoum.

"The problem is transportation. Government should quickly maintain the Bentiu-Rumbek-Shambe road to ease the supply of fuel," Majok urged, contending that "sufficient fuel and easy transportation of goods will bring prices down."

The fuel dealer was reacting to a Town Council order demanding a reduction in the prices of basic commodities.

Rumbek Town Clerk Mabor Chawuop Mabor told *Radio Miraya* that the decision was taken in consultation with the local business community.

"We agreed principally that prices of essential food items be reduced at least to meet the aspirations of the public. This was decided in a committee, with the consent of the traders," Mabor said, warning that "whoever violates the decision will be held to account."

Foreign investors acquire 2.64 million hectares in southern Sudan, NPA says

Gurtong.net Juba, 24/03/11 - A survey by the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) organization shows that between 2007 and 2010, foreign investors acquired a total of 2.64 million hectares (26,400 Square kilometres) of land for agriculture, forestry and bio-fuel alone in southern Sudan.

NPA's Country Director, Jan Ledang, said his organization aims to raise awareness about land ownership before too much land is sold to international or domestic companies without proper regulations.

At the launch of the report yesterday, the Chairperson of Land Commission, Robert Ladu Loki, thanked the NPA for their work, and emphasized that the Southern government would like to streamline the way land is leased out.

Meanwhile, Ladu stressed that people should use the land for food production in order to reduce dependence on imported agricultural food.

2000 Southern children live in the North without parental care

Gurtong.net Khartoum, 23/03/11 -A delegation from the National Council for Child Welfare arrived in Juba today from Khartoum with a mission to seek strategies for the return of Southern children currently living in the North with no parental care.

Southern Sudan Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare met with the delegation and disclosed that an estimated 2,000 children live without parental care in the North, particularly in Khartoum.

Margaret Mathiang, the Under Secretary of the Ministry, said that some of the children will be

reunited with their family members when they return. She said that the parents of those children moved North during the North-South civil war that ended in 2005.

Sudanese authorities to implement "additional safety measures"

Al-Khartoum [via BBC Monitoring] *Khartoum*, 23/03/11 – Sources reveal that the various security authorities will begin implementing additional precautionary safety measures after midnight on some roads in Khartoum.

A high-ranking source said the measures will include setting up several checkpoints at various locations to verify the identity of those moving about after midnight in order to protect citizens. He affirmed that the measures would respect people's dignity and that nobody would be harassed and further called on people to cooperate in order to maintain the stability enjoyed in Khartoum.

The source denied these measures were being taken in response to the repeated calls for street protests being made by groups on social networking sites or the recent seizure of weapons in Omdurman.

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