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Media Monitoring Report

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

Highlights

UN expresses concern over possible attacks on GoSS state institutions

Local dailies report that UNMIS issued a statement yesterday condemning last Sunday's attack on the village in Jonglei. The Mission said it considered the attack as a deliberate assault on children and women and a continuation of the wave of violence that southern Sudan has seen since the beginning of this year. It charged unnamed elements of targeting state institutions.

The Mission further pointed out that this trend in violence is of great concern especially as all sights are turned towards the April 2010 general elections and the 2011 referendum for self determination for southern Sudan and Abyei.

UNMIS called on the GoSS and other authorities to consolidate their efforts to uncover the culprits of such crimes and bring them to justice.

Meanwhile, **The Juba Post** reports that UNMIS has flown in by helicopter to Juba 46 people who were injured during the Duk Padiet attack. The patients are receiving treatment at Juba Military Hospital.

Authorities in Jonglei State arrest suspects to Duk Padiet killings

Al-Khartoum reports that authorities in Jonglei state have arrested some suspects in connection to the recent killings in Duk Padiet County, Jonglei State. Sources report that preliminary investigations by the committee formed by the state to inquire on the incident has drawn confessions from the suspects who claim they were not cattle rustlers but sought to destabilize the area by their attack. Without elaborating, sources said that the attackers received advanced combat training and backing from some parties.

Meanwhile SPLM Spokesperson Yien Mathew said that calm has returned to the area. He said that the GoSS has sent reinforcements to Jonglei and has formed a commission of inquiry into the incident. He declined to name suspects pending results of the inquiry.

Al-Sahafa meanwhile reports that SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem said that the SPLA will put a stop to militia attacks in the Jonglei area. He added that the militia forces are clearly targeting the GoSS.

According to **Ray Al-Shaab**, the SPLA has accused militia's loyal to Riek Gai (NCP) of carrying out the attack on Duk Padiet village in Jonglei State.

In a related development, **Al-Wifaq** reports SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol as saying that they are expecting an attack by SPLM-DC militias on areas in the Upper Nile during the coming days. He told the London-based **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** that the NCP had recently trained Lam Akol's militias in White Nile State and provided them with modern military gadgetry.

UN has to consolidate security and to support Sudan peace – Ban Ki-moon

Sudantribune.com New York, 23/09/09 – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the 192 member states that the international organization has to consolidate security in Darfur and support peace implementation in southern Sudan.

Addressing the session of the General Assembly which kicked off its general debate on Wednesday, Ban Ki-moon reaffirmed the UN commitment to the responsibility to protect.

"In our modern era, no nation, large or small, can violate the human rights of its citizens with impunity. Where conflicts arise, justice and accountability should follow," he said. He further

described as vital the work of the International Criminal Court adding "We look to the review conference in Kampala, next May, as an opportunity to strengthen its mandate."

"We can achieve none of our noble goals without peace, security and justice."

UN officials say the relative calm in Darfur called by the former UNAMID chief, Rodolphe Adada "low intensity conflict" should encourage efforts to hold peace talks for a negotiated solution to the six year conflict. However they warn that Darfur conflict is not ended and it can easily into a 'high intensity conflict' one.

The UN Secretary General also stressed on the need to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended more than two decades of war in southern Sudan.

"We must continue to work, urgently, for the broader stability of Sudan and the region and shore up the comprehensive peace with South Sudan."

Khartoum hand in southern Sudan unrest unproven, analysts say

AFP Khartoum, 23/09/09 - Whether scrambling for access to natural resources, settling ethnic scores, fighting over cattle or a sombre plan by Khartoum to sink the south back into civil war, the causes of the resurgence of violence in south Sudan remain unclear.

"In Rumbek area of Lakes State, there has been a sort of escalating set of feuds between different sections of Dinka you can describe as tribal," Douglas Johnson, a British expert in south Sudan told AFP by telephone. But in the neighbouring state of Jonglei, "definitely there are remnants of old government militias who seem to get access to new supplies of weapons and are operating with an agenda that is not related necessarily to local disputes," he said.

Clashes between rival ethnic groups in south Sudan erupt frequently -- often sparked by cattle rustling and disputes over natural resources, while others are in retaliation for previous attacks. However, a series of recent raids has shocked many, with an apparent sharp rise in attacks on women and children, as well as the targeting of homesteads.

In the latest violence, "it is quite clear that the focus of the attack was on the organised forces themselves," said David Gressly, regional coordinator for the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in charge of monitoring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between north and south.

Officials from south Sudan have accused President Omar Al-Bashir's National Congress Party of arming militias such as the Lou Nuer in order to destabilise the south ahead of nationwide elections set for April 2010 and a referendum in south Sudan on independence from the north due in 2011.

"There has been very, very little evidence presented to basically prove that these allegations are true," said EJ Hogendoorn, International Crisis Group's Horn of Africa project director.

But "we're not saying it is not true," said Hogendoorn, who also points to internal tensions among southern forces.

At the end of the civil war, several southern militias -- some of them formerly sponsored by the Khartoum government -- were integrated into the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, the mainstream rebel group that now leads the autonomous regional government in the south.

"That integration is not completed and there continues to be friction," said Hogendoorn.

"Many of these units remain much more loyal to individuals within the SPLA or the SPLM than the institutions themselves. So there is a real fear that these units could in one way become independent militias again," he added.

GoSS vows to protect civilians

Sudantribune.com Juba, 23/09/09 - GoSS Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Samson Kwajje, said the GoSS condemns the recent attack on unarmed civilians in Duk Padiet and vows to do everything possible to protect unarmed civilians in the region.

"It is time we must not spare any energy to protecting peace and innocent civilians in areas covered with illegal weapons," he said.

The minister further added that most of the agricultural productive areas in the rural villages across the south are no longer being cultivated because civilians are regularly on the move due to insecurity caused by individuals holding illegal weapons. The minister said that presence of foreign forces such as Lords' Resistant Army in remote areas of Western Equatoria State is also hampering farming activities.

He further said GoSS is fully aware of those behind such odious acts of violence "to portray its inability to govern her inhabitants."

Abyei boundary demarcation committee begins work in Higlig:

Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Moyak said the committee tasked to demarcate the area's boundary has begun implementing the PCA award on the Abyei boundaries, **Al-Wifaq** reports. He said that the committee has set out to work starting with demarcating the areas near the Higlig oil-fields.

Obama to General Assembly: Work for peace in Sudan

VoANews.com New York, 23/09/09 - U.S. President Barack Obama called at the UN General Assembly meeting for a new era of engagement among nations to address violence and work for peace, in Haiti, East Timor, the Middle East, Congo, and Sudan.

He said that the US will work for a lasting peace in Sudan through support to the people of Darfur and the implementation of the CPA, reports **Al-Ahdath**.

Deputy Speaker says NCP responsibility for failing to govern Sudan

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atem Garang, says that the SPLM is capable of restoring security and stability in southern Sudan. In response to recent NCP accusations that the SPLM is to blame for failing to govern southern Sudan, Garang says the NCP is to blame for failure to run the whole country, **Al-Khartoum** reports.

Southern Sudan lawmakers ask government to act on famine

The South Sudan Legislative Assembly has urged the President of the GoSS to treat the issue of famine as a matter of urgency, reports **Radio Miraya FM**. Henry Odwar, a Member of Parliament, said more than fourteen people have starved to death in Eastern Equatoria State earlier this month.

Meanwhile, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has warned of severe famine in eastern Africa this year. FAO says food production is falling as a result of drought and conflicts.

Peace partners resume talks in Khartoum on Southern Sudan referendum

Sudantribune.com Juba, 23/09/09 – The parties to the CPA have resumed talks on the draft referendum bill.

GoSS Vice-President and Deputy Chairperson of the SPLM, Riek Machar, left Juba for Khartoum on Tuesday, after a three-day break in Juba, to resume talks on with the NCP on the outstanding issues of the required percentage of votes cast to declare southern Sudanese

independence at the referendum.

Other contentious issues the two parties will also debate on include voter eligibility for the referendum for southern Sudanese residing in the north.

Elections can only be held if referendum law is endorsed – MP

Radio Miraya 23/9/09 – SPLM leading member and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang said the 2010 general elections would not take place if the Interim National Assembly fails to endorse the South Sudan Referendum Law, citing disagreements over the demarcation of the north-south border and the census results.

Reports of Misseriya and Rizeigat groupings in South Darfur

Hussein Aqiel, a key Rizeigat tribal figure, has called on government officials to expedite efforts to stop the bloodshed between them and the Misseriya, **Akhir Lahza** reports. Aqiel said that there is a build-up of Rizeigat fighters in the Al-Ghar Ab-Seigan area of South Darfur following reports of a Misseriya build-up in Karkadi in the same state. He pointed out that only 26 kilometres separate the two sides and called on authorities to arrest the situation before further bloodshed occurs between them.

Sudan's ruling parties want all political forces to be in Juba conference

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 23/09/09 – Pro-NCP parties say they would participate at the SPLM-sponsored Juba Conference if all registered political parties are invited to attend it.

The NCP says it would only attend if it is involved in the preparations for the conference and requested also to invite all the political parties instead of limiting it to the opposition forces.

Pagan Amum, SPLM Secretary General rejected the NCP's conditions saying they cannot invite over 60 registered political parties "So we have called the active political forces and some of the parties participating in the government of national unity." He also said the agenda of the meeting is open to any participant.

The council, which adopted NCP's position on the conference, has formed a high ranking delegation to visit Juba to discuss the issue. According to the **SMC**, the delegation includes Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, Mr. Bona Malwal, Dr. Sadiq al-Mahdi Hadi, Engineer Abdullah Ali Massar, Dr. Ahmed Bilal Osman and Dr. Mudawi Turabi.

The allies of the NCP, also said that their participation means they should be associated to procedural steps of the conference such as who should be in the preparatory committee, the preparation of papers, designation of conference chairmanship, how decisions are taken and the designation of the secretariat tasked with the editing of the final communiqué and recommendations in addition to the need to draw to objective criteria for the participation of civil society and choose their representatives in the Conference.

The NCP Secretary for political relations Mandour Al-Mahdi hinted recently that the Juba conference would be a tribune to pass the agenda of the opposition parties.

But Pagan Amum reaffirmed last August that the conference will discuss transition from authoritarianism to democracy and ways to ensure fair and free elections. The conference aims to develop a national vision on how to make the unity an attractive option in 2011 referendum, he added.

NCP Consultative Council to meet on Tuesday

Al-Ahdath reports that the NCP's National Consultative Council convenes next Tuesday. NCP Campaign Director Ibrahim Gandour says about 600 participants from all over the country are expected to participate at the conference. Issues on the table include Darfur, the party's

relations with the other political forces and current political and economic issues. The Council will also make preparations for next April's NCP General Convention.

SPLM-DC mulls Constitutional Court assistance over SPLM “harassment”

SPLM-DC is preparing to institute legal measures against the SPLM following recent arrest by the SPLM of the SPLM-DC Chairman in Wau, reports **Akhir Lahza**. The Chairman of SPLM-DC Wau Chapter, George Peter, was arrested yesterday when twenty SPLA elements stormed the party's Wau office and commandeered its vehicle, according to the paper.

Meanwhile, UNMIS officials are reportedly scheduled to meet today with the Governor of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal against the background of reports by SPLM-DC officials.

HIV infections in Western Equatoria reach “alarming level”

Radio Miraya 23/9/09 - The Director of the HIV/AIDS Department at the Ministry of Health in Western Equatoria State said that voluntary counseling and testing data show that HIV prevalence has reached an alarming level. Samuel Timatio said more than four groups of people living with the virus have already been formed in various areas in the State.

He attributed the high prevalence to the influx of refugees and internally displaced persons. He said polygamy could also be a major factor for the spread of HIV. While acknowledging the effort of government in the response to HIV/AIDS, Mr. Timatio called on the World Food Programme to help people living with the virus with food supplies.

WFP suspends humanitarian activities in South Darfur locality

Sudantribune.com 23/09/09 – The UN WFP suspended today its humanitarian activities in a South Darfur locality following the carjacking of two trucks last week carrying food items from El Obeid to El Daein. The trucks were carjacked on September 17 by gunmen about 80 kilometres from Al Deain, South Darfur. The WFP suspended its activities in and around Adilla locality, about 400 kilometres from El Fasher, UNAMID reports.

The vehicles, which had been carrying foodstuff for about 10,000 children, were carjacked by armed men about 80 kilometres from Al Deain, South Darfur on the way from El Obeid.

Government of Sudan (GoS) police and Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC) officials negotiated the release of the drivers, but the stolen items were not recovered. UNAMID forces in the area are continuing to monitor these developments.

NCP says US, Special Envoy Gration not in touch with the reality in Darfur

The NCP has stressed that the US and US Special Envoy Scott Gration are “not in touch” with the realities in Darfur, **Akhir Lahza** reports. The party's Political Liaison's Officer Mandour Al-Mahdi pointed out that the war in Darfur is really over as attested earlier by UNAMID Force Commander Martin Aqwai and former Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada.

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Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

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