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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

FVP Kiir survives plane mishap in northern Uganda

Agencies *Gulu (Uganda), 26/11/09* – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit on Wednesday morning survived a plane mishap at Gulu Airfield.

Mr Aziku Zata, the deputy Northern Regional Police Commander, says the front tyre of the plane burst just before takeoff, throwing it off the runway. The pilot, however, managed to control the plane forestalling an expected tragic accident.

Mr Kiir who arrived in Uganda's West Nile province on Tuesday was aboard an Antonov 74 cargo plane when it developed a mechanical problem early in the morning as the plane was taxiing, say Police.

Luckily, no one was injured. Gen. Kiir and panicky officials in his entourage were immediately evacuated to Acholi Inn Hotel where he had earlier spent the night.

The government of South Sudan arranged another plane to fly the high-powered delegation back home.

Gen. Kiir came here at the invitation of his counterpart President Museveni and the two leaders were on Tuesday together in Moyo District discussing a cocktail of bilateral issues; with deepening row over the border topping the agenda.

UPDF officers, including commanders of the elite Presidential Guard Brigade as well as Police have reportedly taken over control of the aerodrome facility and hurriedly declared it a no-go area for civilians.

Al-Sahafa reports that the GoSS has downplayed the accident involving the presidential aircraft but **Al-Rai Al-Aam** quoted GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong has called on the Presidency of the Republic of Sudan to investigate. He reportedly said that the plane was sent by Khartoum to fly the FVP and had a catastrophe could have occurred had it not been for the pilot's skills and experience.

Kiir urges Uganda to lead recognition of independent South Sudan

Sudantribune.com *Juba, 25/11/09* – General Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan and President of the Southern Sudan, has on Wednesday 24, in both Moyo and Adjumani Districts of Uganda, urged Ugandans to lead recognition of the independent state of South Sudan if referendum votes favor secession.

"If the 2011 referendum favors southern secession from the northern Sudan, South Sudanese in Uganda expect Uganda to take the lead in recognizing South Sudan as an independent country if South Sudanese voted for secession in the 2011 referendum," Kiir said.

The FVP was in Uganda at the invitation of Uganda's President Yuweri Museveni for bilateral talks on border.

Commenting on the issue of border disputes which necessitated his visit, he said misunderstanding arising from territorial rivalry should not divert us from the joint Southern Sudanese and Ugandan vision.

"I think we can find solutions to whatever misunderstanding that might have occurred," he commented saying South Sudanese in Northern Uganda and elsewhere in the country, should live with Ugandans as one people without giving in for ill separation, the President said. The same applies to Ugandans in any part of Southern Sudan, Kiir added.

Kiir further said that the border conflict and insecurity in southern Sudan started after the peace agreement in 2005; it was not there during the war.

"Not only in Moyo (northern Ugandan near Sudan's border) that we are having problems; there are also tribal wars in Southern Sudan; all these conflicts are happening because someone is behind them, their aim is just to create chaotic situations for reasons best known to them, that means there are some people who are working day and night so that there is instability in South Sudan. Let us not allow it. Let nobody agitate you so that you quarrel amongst yourselves," he stressed.

Kiir who seems turning his back on Sudan's unity after four year of a peace deal signed with the National Congress Party in 2005, tried during his European tour to campaign in favor of separation and to draw EU support for southern Sudan independence.

However, last month his government dismissed remarks where he called for southern Sudan independence describing the vote for a united Sudan as voting for "second class" citizenship.

Ugandan President, Yoweri Kaguta Musevesni, stressed that what is happening in the border area is not a dispute, "it is simply misunderstanding which will be handled and solved by the brothers and sisters of our two sister countries amicably."

FM warns of serious consequences if partners fail to overcome pending issues

Foreign Minister and SPLM figure, Deng Alor, has said that relations between the NCP and the SPLM are "very tense". He warned that such a situation, if not addressed, would lead to "serious consequences for the two partners and the Sudan as a whole", ***Al-Sahafa*** reports. Alor told reporters yesterday that no breakthrough has so far been reached on key issues including elections, the national security bill and popular consultations and Abyei.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor told reporters that halt of entitlement of MPs would not force them to resume parliamentary activities, describing the move as a "cheap political decision", ***Al-Ahdath*** reports.

According to Sudan ***Tribune website*** 26/11/09, – GoSS VP Dr. Riek Machar Teny told the press that negotiations with the NCP on the issues have remained contentious.

Machar who returned to Juba from Khartoum on Wednesday after ten days of negotiations in the national capital said there is however progress on the issues of popular consultations for both areas of Southern Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan.

He explained that the remaining contentious points in the bills for the two areas are about how to address any future disagreement between the two respective areas and the central government in Khartoum in case it happens over the outcome of the popular consultations.

He added there are proposals under consultations that would identify the appropriate body to which the appeal would be directed to by any party in case of any disagreement during the exercise.

Machar also said the issue of defining, in the law, who are the other residents or communities in Abyei who shall also vote in the referendum with the people of Ngok Dinka, as provided for by the CPA, remains contentious.

UNHCR official says 66,000 refugees facing harsh conditions in east

UNHCR cites lack of services and abduction, trade in and use of young girls as sex slaves as among the key difficulties encountered in the refugee camps in Sudan, ***Akhbar Al-yom*** reports.

UNHCR Regional Director George Okoth-Obbo told a press conference at UNMIS yesterday that the main tasks of the agency at the moment is to received the influx of refugees from

Eritrea and to provide protection, services and counseling. He notes that some 18,000 refugees pour into eastern Sudan from Eritrea each month and that 66,000 refugees are currently facing hard conditions in eastern Sudan such as poverty, drought, lack of services and unemployment.

Okoth-Obbo further pointed out that the refugee agency is now working with local and state authorities and relevant parties to develop programmes to improve the conditions of these refugees and their host communities.

The Regional Director also expressed concern over continued LRA attacks in southern Sudan and at the border regions with the DRC. He said that these attacks have caused an influx of some 19,000 refugees into Sudan and the displacement of more than 70,000 people inside southern Sudan.

On Darfur, he said that the refugee agency will also work to protect IDPs in Darfur. He also expressed concern over the abduction of aid workers in Darfur and pointed out that such activities may cut off assistance to the war-affected civilians.

Sudan opposition delays boycott decision

Reuters Khartoum, 25/11/09 - Sudan's opposition parties said on Wednesday they would delay a decision on whether to boycott the first multi-party elections in 24 years because of the Muslim Eid holiday and extended voter registration.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and 20 opposition parties, had threatened to boycott the vote if a package of democratic laws were not passed by Nov. 30, showing a rare united front.

"On Nov. 30...the parties will meet and ...decide on a date and venue for the (party) summit before which we will put our reports on whether they boycott or not," said opposition alliance official Farouk Abu Eissa.

Because of the Muslim Eid al-Adha festival, Sudan will be on holiday for five days beginning on Thursday, making any decision on a boycott by Nov. 30 impossible, the parties said.

Meanwhile and in what has been reported as a blow to opposition parties that may consider boycotting the elections, Mohamed Osman El-Mirghani, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), had his name inked down at a voter registration centre in Khartoum yesterday. According to **Al-Wifaq**, El-Mirghani, a prominent opposition figure, announced that his party is ready for the elections on condition that the process is free and fair.

SPLA elements brandish weapons at registration centre in Kurmuk

SPLA soldiers have brandished their weapons, threatening NCP leaders at a registration centre at the Kurmuk Locality area of "Dejlak" (Blue Nile State), **Al-Khartoum** reports. Sources said the incident occurred just a day after the NEC chairman's visit to the area.

National civil society organizations call for strict penalties on sexual violence

Local civil society organizations have called on the government to enact more stringent measures against offenders on cases of gender-based (GBV) and sexual violence, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. They also called for a clearer definition of "rape" in the country's legal system in order to help protect rape victims.

Representatives of these organizations attending a workshop organised by the Teeba Press in collaboration with UN agencies, commended international and UN agencies for their role in breaking the silence over GBV and called for more support to champion the cause for the

defence against violence against women.

No need for UNAMID in a conflict-free Darfur, says South Darfur Governor

South Darfur Governor Ali Mahmoud Mohamed has criticized the latest UNSG Report to the Security Council on the situation in Darfur ... especially where the report refers to intimidation of UNAMID activities by government officials, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. He pointed out that UNAMID has unfettered access to carry out operations throughout its seven points of deployment and the committee charged with handling UNAMID issues receives all complaints of hindrance that may arise.

Sudan, he says, respects the UN and the AU and honours the agreements signed with them. He pointed out however that there is no need for international troops in Darfur against the background of true security in the region. He added that it is the federal government to decide on UNAMID's presence.

Meanwhile, **Al-Sahafa** reports that Foreign Minister Deng Alor has affirmed Sudan Government's commitment to the agreement signed with the UN and AU on the deployment of UNAMID. He reportedly dismissed any move to expel the Mission.

AUPSC holds talks on CPA in Juba

Radio Miraya 25/11/09 - A delegation from the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) arrived in Juba on Wednesday for one-day consultative meeting with key GoSS officials on the CPA. Reportedly, talks will also focus on the pre-elections preparations as well as the south Sudan referendum. The delegation had earlier toured Khartoum and Al Fashir in North Darfur.

Militias attack two villages in North Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 25/11/09 — Pro-Sudanese Government militias have attacked and looted two villages in North Darfur state, a rebel commander said today.

"The janjaweed, who came from Al-Maliha district, attacked the villages of Al-Harra and Jabel Issa on Wednesday," said Suleiman Marjan a leading rebel commander from the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur.

Speaking from North Darfur, Marjan said the militiamen, who used around 25 vehicles, beat the villagers and looted their money and properties.

Marjan said the Janjanweed who carried out the attack are under the command of the commissioner of Al-Maliha district El-Tigani Abdellah Salih who had been one of the militia leaders that committed atrocities in Darfur in 2004-2005.

"Salih worked under the command of state minister for internal affairs at the time, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun who is wanted by the International Criminal Court," he said."

Lubna Hussein "might not return home"

AFP Paris, 25/11/09 - Lubna Ahmed Hussein, who said she defied a travel ban and sneaked out of Sudan wearing a full Islamic veil to hide her identity, said however she was not planning to ask for asylum in Europe.

"I am waiting for the network of women in Sudan (campaigning for women's rights)... to decide whether it is better for me to continue the campaign at home or abroad," she told reporters in Paris.

"I will follow their decision," she said, speaking on the UN-sponsored International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Hussein said Sudanese authorities had tried to stop her leaving the country but that she had contacts in Khartoum Airport who helped her get past passport control and board an international flight.

Hussein was in France to promote her new book "40 coups de fouet pour un pantalon" (Forty Lashes for a Pair of Trousers), which is published in French and is set to be translated into English and other languages. She said that 43,000 women were arrested in 2008 in the Khartoum region by police tasked with enforcing Sudan's laws on indecent clothing for women.

"If that's happening in Khartoum, we can only imagine what's going on in the rest of the country," which is Africa's largest state and home to 42 million people, she told reporters.

Sudanese law stipulates a maximum of 40 lashes for wearing indecent clothing. Women in trousers are not a rare sight in Sudan but officials can take offence at trousers which reveal too much of a woman's shape.

"The law is generally applied to poor women, while better-off women can pay a bribe to get off," said Lubna, adding that a whip made of hippopotamus leather is sometimes used to administer the lashes.

Women accused of wearing indecent clothing are not allowed a defence lawyer in court, she said.

"Even a murderer has the right to defend himself, but these women do not," she said.

Hussein, a journalist and women's rights campaigner who also worked for the United Nations, on Tuesday met French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, who praised her "simple heroism" for standing up to Sudanese authorities.

She is hosted by the French women's rights group "Ni Putes Ni Soumises" (Neither Whores Nor Submissives), which said she left Sudan on September 18 to fly to Yemen, then to Cairo and Amman before arriving in Paris.

At each stage of the trip she met with local women's rights groups.

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She is due to leave France next week to go again to Egypt, where she is to receive an award.

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UNMIS Spokesperson wishes you a very Happy eid Mubarak and Thanksgiving

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