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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Pro-west elements creating problems between North and South – Bashir

Al-Rai Al-Aam 27/6/11 – Addressing members of the Sudanese community in Iran on Saturday, President Al-Bashir said pro-west elements within the SPLM were seeking to foment problems between the North and the South, adding the SPLM had committed numerous violations in Abyei, forcing the SAF to enter the area. He said the SAF was ready to deal decisively with the outlaws particularly in the Nuba Mountains and reminded the southern forces that separation of the South would not turn it into a heaven.

The President said rebels in southern Kordofan wanted to overrun Kadugli to appoint Abdulaziz Al-Hilu as governor of the state to be followed by move to overthrow the government by creating a Libyan-like situation.

Al-Khartoum 27/6/11 reports President Al-Bashir has vowed to wipe out the outlaws in the Nuba Mountains but pointed out that his government remains committed to the realization of peace.

Meanwhile, *Sudan Tribune website* 26/6/11 reported that aerial bombardment and artillery have continued in Southern Kordofan amid reports of civilian casualties, according to the UN.

The UN humanitarian office said in its latest report that sporadic air attacks and artillery by SAF of north Sudan had targeted areas inhabited by the non-Arab Nuba population in eastern and southern Nuba Mountains.

The UN report pointed out that several rockets fell near the office of the UN Mission in Sudan on Friday. It went on to say that the humanitarian situation remains uncertain due to the restrictions imposed on the movement of aid workers.

The UN Humanitarian office also said that the local authorities are still detaining four southern Sudanese employees of the UN Mission in Sudan since they were arrested on Wednesday by the military intelligence at the airport of South Kordofan's capital of Kadugli.

Train carrying southern Sudanese attacked -UN

Reuters 26/6/11 - A train carrying southern Sudanese migrants was attacked in the country's conflict-stricken Southern Kordofan border state on Sunday, killing at least one person, the United Nations said.

U.N. spokeswoman Hua Jiang said the most recent information indicated armed Misseriya tribesmen were behind the attack. A senior Misseriya official denied the tribe had a role in the attack, and blamed it on rebels from neighbouring Darfur.

"A train transport of southern Sudanese returnees going from Kosti to Wau was attacked by Misseriya militia this morning," Jiang said, adding at least one person was killed and four were wounded.

Mohamed Omer al-Ansary, a Misseriya leader, confirmed an attack occurred, but said the tribe was not involved. He blamed the attack on rebels from Darfur, which neighbours Southern Kordofan and is the site of a separate insurgency.

"The Misseriya did not attack this train and we do not fight civilians," he said.

Talks underway in Addis to sign ceasefire in southern Kordofan – Arman

Al-Rai Al-Aam 27/6/11 – Secretary General of the SPLM (Northern Sector) Yassir Arman has disclosed that the NCP and the SPLM which are in talks in Addis Ababa submitted their visions on how to address the problem in southern Kordofan. Arman said in statement yesterday that the SPLM submitted three papers and the NCP submitted two papers and the mediator Thabo Mbeki had also submitted his final vision on how the problem should be addressed. He said consultations between the parties are continuing to sign a political framework to resolve the problem.

Arman has expected conclusion of an immediate agreement on cessation of hostilities.

Sudan's NCP expects foreign attempts to overthrow it

Sudan Tribune website 26/6/11 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Sudan said it expects a "fierce foreign attack" to remove the party from power following the official independence of the South on July 9th.

The NCP deputy chairman in Khartoum Mandoor al-Mahdi said that a sign of this plot is evident by recent events in Abyei, South Kordofan and Darfur.

Al-Mahdi also made a rare acknowledgement that revolutions that are sweeping the region could occur in Sudan contrary to assertions by other officials.

"We are not immune from revolutions," the NCP official said.

Tight security measures in Khartoum in preparation for the 9th of July

Al-Rai Al-Aam 27/6/11 – Khartoum state police disclosed tight security measures as the 9th of July approaches. Director of Planning, Maj. Gen. Osman Abdullah, told reporters yesterday that the police, SAF, NISS besides the judicial and political organs are coordinating to maintain security and to avert recurrence of past incidents.

According to *Al-Akhbar* 27/6/11, Special Forces would be widely deployed in Khartoum state for rapid intervention when the need arises.

North says end of hostilities condition for trade with the South

Al-Sahafa 27/6/11 – State Minister at the Ministry of Transport, Faisal Hammad, told reporters yesterday that continuity of land transport services between the North and South depends on the GoSS' positive responsive to the repeated calls for halt of attacks on trade convoys including assault against drivers. The Ministry threatened to block trade between the North and the South should attacks do not stop, urging the GoSS to take action to protect trade.

South Sudan accuses SAF of backing deadly clashes in Warrap state

Sudan Tribune website 26/6/11 - The SPLA on Sunday accused the SAF of backing deadly clashes in southern state of Warrap.

Armed elements allegedly allied to militia leader, Peter Gadet Yak, carried out a surprise attack in Turalei, an administrative headquarters of Twic County, killing 11 people and injuring several others on Friday.

The attack comes ahead of the deployment of Ethiopian Forces mandated by the United Nations to the disputed border town of Abyei, which the northern army took from a local administration predominantly controlled by officials loyal to the South Sudan's ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Colonel Phillip Aguer Panyang, SPLA spokesman accused the SAF of using the militia to stir up violence in the contested borderlines in order to provoke return to war before independence of South Sudan.

"The Sudan Armed Forces are using militia groups to attack areas along the borderlines in order to provoke reaction from the Sudan People's Liberation Army. This is the ploy coined by the government in Khartoum", said Colonel Panyang.

"Our people in the South together with their government under the leadership of our president comrade General Salva Kiir Mayardit, know these facts", adds the senior military officer. Panyang further said he has no clear details of the casualties.

"We have not received clear details of the clashes," he said. He added that their plahas failed.

"Our forces in Turalei crushed them properly", he said explaining that was part of a plan by the North to take over oil-rich areas in the South before it gains independence next month.

"They want to draw border by force between the North and South because the border has not been physically demarcated. This is plan the government in Khartoum is pursuing. They want to demarcate borders by the use of the army. They are using force to demarcate borders", explains Panyang. He said the SPLA would not accept any provocation to resume war.

Ariec Mayar Ariec, a member of Warrap State Legislative in Kuajok, capital of the State, confirmed the attack to have taken place on Friday and said that 11 people including women were killed. He said some of the attackers have disappeared into the community after scattering during the fighting and reportedly throwing away their guns.

"Some people on the side of our Gelweng (home guards) have been killed. They have killed three policemen and more than eight fighters on the side of the attackers. Eleven lives in total have been lost", he said explaining that some of the fighters have disappeared into community and that they were still being hunted".

Colonel Dominic Deng Kuoc Malek, Twic County Commissioner, in a separate interview with Sudan Tribune confirmed the attack took place.

Turalei hosts tens of thousands of people who had been displaced from their homes in the contested North-South region of Abyei following an invasion by SAF...

GoS agrees to deploy Ethiopian force under Chapter VII

Al-Akhbar 27/6/11 – reliable sources have disclosed to the newspaper that the UNSC would adopt a resolution on Tuesday on deployment of Ethiopian force in Abyei provided no differences between the two parties on mandate of the troops occur.

According to the sources, the Government of the Sudan (GoS) did not object to the deployment of the Ethiopian forces to function under Chapter VII.

AFP 26/06/11 reported the UN Security Council would vote on a resolution Monday allowing a 4,200-strong Ethiopian force to start peacekeeping duties in the disputed Sudanese region of Abyei, diplomats said.

The force would monitor the withdrawal of north Sudan troops from Abyei as well as human rights in the region as part of its mandate, diplomats told AFP.

The United States has been pressing for an early vote on the mission, which will be known as the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei, or UNISFA. US Ambassador Susan Rice has called the north-south peace deal "fragile."

The US mission had originally sought a vote over the weekend, but discussions on final details have been held on Saturday and Sunday instead, diplomats said.

"Now there is agreement between the permanent members of the council and there will be a vote Monday," one diplomat said. Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, as permanent members, can veto any resolution.

The new force will be one of the biggest of its kind, considering Abyei's size of about 4,000 square miles (10,000 square kilometers).

If Ethiopia sends the full 4,200 maximum contingents, it will be four times more than the current UN force in Abyei, which is part of the UN mission in Sudan, UNMIS.

Khartoum said it had agreed to the Abyei peace deal with the south, brokered by former South African president Thabo Mbeki at the head of an African Union panel, because it placed Abyei in the north.

But Rice and other diplomats have insisted the accord makes no judgment on the final status of Abyei, which the two governments have yet to hammer out.

Sudan Tribune 26/06/11 reported an Ethiopia military official as saying that necessary military logistical preparations are being finalized for a peacekeeping force to be deployed to Sudan's disputed region of Abyei.

Ethiopian officials said that they are only waiting for UN to approve the deployment and are making all preparations before their forces depart.

“Among others our mandate in the Abyei region will be to protect civilians, maintain buffer zone and also to create peaceful environment that will allow to conduct referendum on Abyei” Logistics affairs head under the ministry of defense Major General Gezahegn Abera said speaking on state television on Sunday.

The Ethiopian military official called on both North and South Sudan parties to play their own positive role by immediately withdrawing their troops from the contested oil producing region of Abyei.

“Any instability in Sudan will certainly affect Ethiopia and the region as a whole and Ethiopia will remain devoted to maintain lasting peace in Sudan” Major General Gezahegn Abera further said.

Sudan leader's arrival in China “delayed”

AFP, 27/06/11 - A meeting between President Hu Jintao and Sudan leader Omar al-Bashir was cancelled on Monday after Bashir's arrival in Beijing was delayed, the Chinese government said.

Bashir had been due to arrive in China early on Monday, with rights groups outraged that Beijing would host a man wanted by the ICC for crimes against humanity during Sudan's civil war. Chinese foreign ministry staff told AFP that Bashir's plane had been "delayed." Six hours after his scheduled arrival, they said they still had no updated information on when Bashir would land.

"This afternoon's activities have been cancelled," a ministry staff member said, referring to a scheduled late afternoon meeting with Hu.

Bashir was due to stay in China - a key supporter of the regime in Khartoum - until Thursday. Staff at Sudan's embassy in Beijing said they had no information on the matter.

However, *Sudan Tribune* 27/6/11 reports that the Sudanese foreign ministry issued a statement on Monday morning confirming that the plane carrying president Omer Hassan al-Bashir returned to Iran as he was heading to China for a state visit.

Bashir arrival in Beijing was delayed for unknown reasons and sources told Sudan Tribune earlier that he had to circle back to Tehran where he was attending a conference on combating terrorism.

Sources said that the route was deemed risky and therefore they decided to return to Tehran.

"The plane of Field Marshal Omer al-Bashir President of the Republic to the Chinese capital Beijing, which had been scheduled for yesterday evening was delayed because of an amendment that took place on the route of the presidential plane over the territory of Turkmenistan at a time that it was no longer possible to pass through the new path forcing the pilot to return to Iran after flying over the territory of Turkmenistan at 9:30 yesterday evening Iran local time" said the statement.

The ministry said they expect Bashir to arrive in Beijing later today after assigning a new route

to the presidential plane.

It is not clear why the plane could not continue on to Beijing or what path it was taking.

“We are ready for all scenarios” – NCP official

Al-Raed 27/6/11 – The NCP has announced its readiness for all scenarios after the South becomes independent on the 9th of July.

NCP Information Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour told reporters yesterday that the Party was ready for all scenarios, accusing unnamed elements of seeking to incriminate and weaken the country before the international community. Ghandour, who was speaking to reporters yesterday in Khartoum after a meeting of the NCP political sector, said the sector discussed the way ahead for the forthcoming stage.

SG and 30 heads of state to attend South’s independence celebrations

Al-Ahdath 27/6/11 – The GoSS has disclosed close security coordination between Juba and Khartoum to make South’s independence celebrations on the 9th of July a success. GoSS Information Minister B. Benjamin said all preparations had been finalized to receive more than 30 heads of state. He confirmed the participation of the UNSG Ban Ki-moon and several US Administration officials. He said the NCP had also been invited, like other political parties, to participate in the event.

According to *Al-Tayyar* 27/6/11, GoSS source has disclosed that several European presidents including the French President, British Prime Minister and US President had agreed to take part but pointed out that absence of Al-Bashir is a condition for their presence.

Popular Consultations Commission in BNS to table final report

Al-Ayyam 27/06/11 – The Parliamentary Committee for Popular Consultations in the Blue Nile State is currently engaged in drafting its final report on the exercise and is expected to table it before the state legislative assembly. Sirajeldine Abdul-Mannan, who heads the committee, said the final report might be tabled between the fourth and sixth of next month.

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