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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Rebel leader Gadet threatens to shoot down UNMIS aircraft

Al-Intibaha 28/4/11 – tension is running high between the Nuer and the GoSS in the wake of detention of Maj. Gen. Gabriel Tang who has been placed under arrest in a hotel in Juba. Rebel leader George Athor told the newspaper that Tang was betrayed and “his fate is unknown and is in danger”.

Meanwhile, the high command of Lt. Gen. Peter Gadet said it would shoot down UNMIS planes if they fly over what it described as liberated territories in Unity State.

Gadet’s spokesperson Bol Gatkouth has officially accused UNMIS of transporting SPLA troops to the areas where his forces are located. “They are conducting reconnaissance flights over areas controlled by our troops in favour of the SPLA” he told the newspaper yesterday. “This is the last warning; we will shoot down any aircraft flying over areas controlled by our forces”.

Oil workers returning to south Sudan after clashes

Africasia 27/04/11 - Northern Sudanese oil workers forced out of the south's embattled Unity state have begun to return despite continued militia threats, but crude production is still down, southern officials said on Wednesday.

Unity's crude production was averaging 84,000 bpd until April 20, when the clashes and evacuation of workers caused production to drop, said Deng, who is a senior southern official in Sudan's national unity government.

A rebel spokesman said they had no quarrel with the oil workers, but that they would continue to attack the army.

"Our issue is with (Unity state) Governor Taban Deng," said Bol Gatkouth, from the rebel group led by Peter Gadet, a former southern general turned militia leader."The fight will continue," he added.

In addition to rampant insecurity, south Sudan suffers from a lack of trained professionals to run its oil industry. Northerners represent 98 percent of the Sudanese work force in Unity's oil sector, according to the minister.

Deng said the Juba government planned to send 150 people to Malaysia to train as technicians, to give the southern nation-in-waiting more control over an industry that provides virtually all its income.

Mandate of UN peacekeeping force in Sudan extended

UN News Centre 27/4/11 - Security Council members today agreed to extend the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping mission set up at the end of the north-south civil war in Sudan and establish a replacement operation once the south formally separates in July.

In a unanimous resolution the 15-member Council voted to extend the mandate of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) until 9 July, the date on which Southern Sudan will become an independent State and break away from the rest of Sudan.

In today's resolution the Council said it plans to set up a successor mission to UNMIS and asked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to submit a report by 16 May on the post-independence options for a UN presence.

Senior UN officials have voiced concern in recent weeks about the violence and tensions within Southern Sudan ahead of independence, as well as ongoing disputes between the north and south over such issues as the status of the Abyei area and border demarcation.

Hundreds of people have been reportedly killed since the start of the year in clashes in various states of the south, often involving Southern Sudanese forces and renegade militia groups.

Plans to clean Juba ahead of South Sudan independence celebrations

Sudan Tribune website 27/4/11 - The government of South Sudan on Wednesday called on the public to consider proper waste disposal in order to keep the regional capital of Juba clean for independence day on July 9.

Juba will host the celebration on southern independence on July 9, with preparations underway to prepare the town for the arrival of international guests for the occasion. Steering ministerial and technical committees have been formed to prepare for the celebration.

The southern African countries of Namibia, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe among others have already received formal invitation messages from the government of South Sudan.

Among the subcommittees created to prepare Juba for the heads of state and foreign dignitaries a committee has been tasked to clean Juba.

Luka Monajo Tombe, minister of health in the southern government on Wednesday said his ministry in collaboration with government of central Equatoria State is working together to ensure regular cleaning and proper waste disposal are followed so that the town looks clean and sanitized in the eyes of visitors invited for the celebration.

"We have formed a joint committee," said minister Tombe in an interview with Sudan Tribune on Wednesday. "We are working together to ensure regular cleaning and proper waste disposal methods are followed."

The minister Tombe has directed the committee to ensure people dumping garbage in unauthorized places are brought before the law, saying local authorities should enforce laws on garbage dumping because they have the responsibility to ensure proper waste management in their respective jurisdictions.

S. Sudan launches police unit to target cattle rustling in Jonglei

Sudan tribune website 27/4/11 - The United Nations and government of South Sudan on April 19 in Jonglei state launched a new police unit to tackle cattle rustling.

The project, which is being piloted by Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei states was “initiated by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control and the Southern Sudan Police Service” according to press release from the UN Development Program (UNDP).

The objective is to reduce tensions within and between pastoralist communities and their neighbours by reducing cattle raiding and related criminal activities.

The new Livestock Patrol Unit (LPU) has been launched in Kolnyang Payam [district], with support Jonglei state, the Southern Sudan Police Service, UNDP and the UN Mission in Sudan.

The UNDP press release said: “Kolnyang Payam in Jonglei State has a long history of cattle rustling. Situated on the borders of Dinka Bor lands in Jonglei and Mundari lands in Central Equatoria State, problems have flared up frequently between the neighbouring tribes in recent years over one primary issue – cattle.”

Speaking at the opening ceremony Major General Daniel Deng Lual, Head of the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control said: “This project intends three things – to combat cattle rustling, increase communication with the community and enhance partnership with the government.”

A select group of police officers have been equipped and trained by UNDP and UNMIS to “prevent and deter cattle raiding through ongoing police activities as well as community engagement, including the establishment of early warning systems and community groups.”

Jonglei state deputy governor Hussein Mar told the Kolnyang community that the establishment of the unit is in recognition of “the problems that have happened in Kolnyang” but that “it does not take away the responsibility to look after your cattle.”

The deputy governor thanked the UN and also the community of Kolnyang for offering land for the new Unit.

“The Livestock Patrol Unit is really very important to the community, for there are so many instances of insecurity that will be solved by this,” said the Kolnyang Chief, adding that since “the government is here, it is a sign that they are committed to fight cattle raiding.”

Joe Feeney, UNDP Head of Office in South Sudan, said that the establishment of the Livestock Patrol Unit is “particularly important for one reason: this Unit represents the state and community working together.”

UNDP says it is providing support to South Sudan’s state governments to provide security and build the confidence of communities in their governments and in the rule of law.

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

“Abyei is a northern territory”- Al-Bashir

Dailies 28/4/11 – President Al-Bashir, addressing a rally at the town of Mujlad in southern Kordofan yesterday, reiterated that Abyei is a northern territory and it would remain so, warning the SPLM that it would lose twice if it rekindles war. Below is the unofficial transcript of President Al-Bashir’s speech in Mujlad, appeared in the Arabic daily *Akhbar Al-Youm* 28/4/2011.

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: President Al-Bashir speech in Al-Mujlad

27th April 2011

The President starts his speech with greetings to the people and with praise for the courage and chivalry of the Misseriya.

We are not advocates for war but are people of peace. We fought the rebellion for 22 years and remained undefeated. The (SPLA) rebels did not enter Abyei during the times of war because they knew Abyei was being guarded by brave youths and warriors. I come here today and tell you that we are not worried for Ahmed Haroun’s re-election bid. He does not need me to come in person to campaign for him. He is a man you all know. Haroun is not the first governor of this area after the peace deal; there was a governor before him. Now which party did that governor belong to? He was an SPLM member, right or wrong. What did he do for you? What did he build in the area? How many boreholes did he drill? How many kilometres of road or schools, or dispensaries or how many megawatts of electricity did he generate?

By God, I came to see you and meet with you because this is an opportunity to renew the pledge. If one visits you here, one’s morale is uplifted because one knows that this is a place where you find men, youths, warriors ... and even our elders sitting behind there have all played their roles to the full and handed you a proud history and left behind a legacy ...the legacy of the ancestors who wrote in the pages of history in Sheikan, Oum Dibekrat, Omdurman and the siege of Khartoum [*colonial-day battlegrounds*]*. Yes, those Misseriya and their sons are known even by our brothers in Ethiopia. We came to see you and to renew the pledge and to reiterate before you for the third, fourth, hundredth, thousandth and millionth time that Abyei is northern territory. It is not only in front of you that we say this but this is a statement we say and remind the people in every occasion that Abyei is and would remain northern Sudanese territory by the will of God.

We came here to thank you. We thank you for offering your state as the price for peace. Do you know why we dissolved the state of Western Kordofan? The reason behind that would soon be put to rest and then we would come back to you and reinstate the state as soon as the reasons are no more.

As for the statements by some of the speakers here, good folks, we do not visit people only to seek their votes for the elections and to promise to do this or that if you give us your votes. No, we don’t do that. We have ongoing programmes ... look at the roads, the Al-Fula Electricity Plant is in process to bring you high voltage and 24 hour electricity like everybody else in Khartoum enjoys.

When I was in Al-Mujlad [*some 22 years previous*] there was a solitary intermediate school and that was closed and was being used as an IDP camp. Today we talk of a university in the area ...

from a solitary and closed intermediate school to an operational university, good folks. *In sha Allah*, after a short while you would hear of a graduate or a teacher from Al-Mujlad and of someone with a doctorate degree from your university. Our other brothers are aware that they are fighting a lost cause and that they would be defeated. They muse that their loss at the elections would mean that they elections would have been rigged and threaten to go to war should that happen.

We came to sign the peace deal as victors and not as the losers in battle. The rebels held only 5% of Southern Kordofan when the ceasefire agreement was signed for the area. But it was for peace that we were fighting and that is why we accepted the ceasefire agreement as well as the CPA. If they feel they are now ready and prepared for war, by God, we with our guns, automatic rifles, vehicles and horses are on the ready to climb to the mountain tops. We are not advocates of war but would say again, “he who lights the fire would be burnt by it”. That day they would realise that time has not changed us; that we remain our same old selves. True we did relax a bit; we had a burning desire for peace but if war breaks out tomorrow, these turbans, these clean *jallabiyas* would all disappear and the khaki would appear in its place and the people would come out and engage [*in battle*] ... then will they know us well. There would be no more agreement and we would take this battle, God willing, to its end. We tell our brothers in the SPLM, “You would lose twice if you start this war ... you would lose the elections and you would lose the war”. If they want it done through the ballot box as Ahmed Haroun says, they are welcome and we will win the polls; and if they want it through the ammunition box, then we will meet ahead, God willing.

Once again, I would like to salute and thank you for this warm welcome and would take the opportunity to thank our brother Abdulhameed Musa Kasha, the Governor of South Darfur State, and his large entourage. Good folks, it is important that you communicate with neighbours and brothers. Exercise caution because your enemies may not be able to get at you but may fan conflict through your neighbours and may kill someone from the Misseriya and claim the act was done by the Rizeigat. Actually it is such fifth columnists and spy agents that do such things. Folks, if such things happen we know our cultural norms and traditions and would employ them to bring the elders and leaders together and see who is in error. The appropriate punishment would then be meted on the erring party and blood price paid to the relatives of the deceased or compensation paid to the person who lost his wealth through looters. Sitting under the tree, the Tree of the NCP [*the NCP has the Tree as its elections symbol*], we would all be shaded. Always employ the democracy of the Tree that, God willing, would provide shade for us all.

Thank you

The NCP seeks to make a battleground out of Southern Kordofan – SPLM

Al-Sahafa 28/04/11 – SPLM gubernatorial candidate for southern Kordofan, Abdulaziz Al-Hilu, told a press conference yesterday that he would seek to build a new southern Kordofan with the help of the Nuba, the Arab tribes and all the other people of the area and would strengthen the region’s ties with the centre within the context of a united Sudan should he win the elections.

Al-Hilu lashed out on President Al-Bashir’s speech in Al-Mujlad describing the statements as “war rhetoric”. “President Al-Bashir’s statements in Al-Mujlad confirm our continued warnings that the NCP wants to make a battleground out of southern Kordofan State,” he said.

Clashes will spread to S. Kordofan should AL-Hilu win the elections - Athor

Al-Rai Al-Aam 28/04/11 – Dissident General George Athor has warned that the violent military clashes currently witnessed in some parts of southern Sudan would spill over to neighbouring southern Kordofan should the SPLM candidate for governor win the elections there. He pointed out that Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu's victory in southern Kordofan would mean that the SPLM would run Southern Kordofan the same way it did in the south and that would cause bloody clashes as what happened in the South.

Also, SPLM leading figure Atem Garang reacted by downplaying these warnings, pointing out that there is no connection between the state of affairs in southern Sudan and an Al-Hilu win in the polls in Southern Kordofan. He dubbed Athor's warnings as "misleading".

Crucial directives for southern Kordofan elections

Sudan Vision 28/4/11 - Towards guaranteeing impartial, free and fair elections in southern Kordofan next month, the High Committee of South Kordofan supplementary elections issued a number of key directives.

The directives aim at systemizing constituencies in addition to appointing heads of electoral centers. The committee directed officers of constituencies to ensure that each worker has taken oath before the launch of the process. It also stressed the importance of timeliness of work throughout the process, pointing out working hours from 8am-6pm daily.

It also cautioned against exhibiting political views, affirming that any worker who expresses his political views will be subject to interrogation.

The committee called on workers to be patient with voters, stressing importance of cooperating with agents of political parties as well as national and international observers. The committee called on political parties to organize rallies at least 150 meters away from electoral centers.

The directives include nominees to direct their representatives to spend the night at electoral centers so as to further guarantee impartiality and transparency.

Over 10,000 observing cards, to ensure presence of a large number of observers at different levels of elections, have been issued.

Political committee to mobilize support for Kuku

Al-Ayyam 28/4/11 – campaign managers of independent candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post Telefon Kuku have urged all political parties to mobilize support for Kuku and described his continued detention as unwarranted.

Kuku's legal adviser Mohamed Hassan Nasir said the political committee for support to the candidate target residents, women and students in southern Kordofan to mobilize their support for the candidate.

SPLM sends over 17,000 soldiers to back its elections campaign

Akhir Lahza 28/4/11 – Informed sources revealed yesterday that the SPLM dispatched over 17,000 armed soldiers (Nuba) to southern Kordofan to support its elections campaign and to

carry out a military action to coincide with the kickoff of polling in the area.

Meanwhile, sources said residents of some areas in southern Kordofan have prevented SPLM candidate Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu from campaigning. According to the sources, Al-Hilu's convoy consisting of about 40 vehicles, some are UN vehicles, have been denied access to those areas for campaigning.

Other Highlights

Sudan ruling party says Gosh's removal dictated by "internal consideration"

Sudan Tribune website 27/4/11 - A Sudanese official on Wednesday broke the silence that shrouded this week's dismissal of the presidential security adviser, Salah Gosh, denying speculations that the latter's removal was caused by alleged power struggle within the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

In the first official comment on the removal of Gosh, presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din told reporters on Wednesday that the security adviser was relieved from his position on account of what he termed as "internal consideration" without going into further details.

Ghazi went on to deny that the sacking of Gosh was an indication of escalated internal squabbles within the NCP. "Salah [Gosh] is an active person in the NCP and was so in all the positions he held, he will remain an active member of the party," Ghazi added.

Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir on Tuesday issued a decree relieving Gosh from his duties as a presidential adviser for security affairs and director-general of the Presidential Security Advisory (PSA), few days after the security adviser was embroiled in a show of public bickering with the powerful presidential assistant and NCP's vice-president Nafi Ali Nafi...

Darfur mediators hand draft peace agreement, urge Sudan and JEM to make progress

Sudan Tribune website 27/4/11 - Darfur mediator handed today as scheduled a draft peace agreement to the three Sudanese parties participating in the Doha talks to end the eight year conflict in Darfur region. They further called on the Sudanese government and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) make progress in the direct talks.

"The Mediation has today, Wednesday, 27 April 2011, submitted a draft Darfur peace document to the heads of delegations participating in the Darfur peace process in Doha," said a statement put out by Al-Mahmoud and Bassole on Wednesday evening.

The mediation said the parties have to study the peace document and to submit their final observations by 7 May.

However due to the slow progress in their direct discussions, they particularly urged the government and JEM to "continue to negotiate urgently and directly and to submit the outcomes of their discussions by Saturday 7 May 2011 for inclusion in the final draft document."

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