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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Police in Sudan clash with doctors pushing for nationwide strike

Sudan Tribune website 2/5/10 - The Sudanese security forces on Wednesday rounded doctors protesting the arrest of several of their leaders who have spearheaded a call for strike over demand for better pay and working conditions.

Yesterday, authorities detained Ahmed Al-Abwabi and Al-Hadi Bakhit immediately after it was announced that the doctors who joined a committee, formed to press for better wages, will go on strike until their demands are met.

Other committee members were beaten and arrested on Wednesday at Khartoum Teaching Hospital according to multiple sources while police prevented many more doctors from joining a meeting there.

Bashir yesterday issued a decree ordering a 2,000 pound salary increase and reimbursements under different categories. However some doctors expressed skepticism that Bashir's directives would be implemented and vowed to continue strike until their leaders and colleagues are released.

SPLM accepts Oil ministry in exchange for foreign portfolio

Al-Sahafa 3/6/10 – SPLM deputy Secretary-General Yasir Arman said the movement has accepted the oil ministry in exchange for the ministry of foreign affairs which will go to the NCP, adding that the SPLM would also get an additional ministry. Arman dismissed claims about differences between the two partners over the Cabinet Affairs Ministry which, he said, would be assigned to the SPLM.

Differences within SPLM over strategy of dealing with NCP

Al-Intibaha 3/6/10 – Differences are escalating between two groups within SPLM over formation of GoSS and devise of a strategy for dealing with the NCP. Reportedly, while one group led SPLM SG Pagan Amum is demanding a broad-based GoSS; the other group led by SPLM Deputy Secretary-General Yassir Arman is pushing for less ministerial portfolios in GoSS.

SPLA attacks Galwak Gai forces in unity state

Al-Intibaha 3/6/10 – SPLA yesterday attacked three camps of renegade officers at a time when defections from SPLA is on the rise especially soldiers from the Nuba Mountains, Nuer and other ethnic groups which view war in the Unity state as conflict between the Dink and the Nuer. Sources said SPLA 4th Division attacked “Kersil” camp 20 miles south of Bentiu which shelter a number of the disabled and wounded soldiers from Athor's forces, “Minkinek” camp and “Nhial Deu” camp. Reportedly, elements from Darfur JEM participated in SPLA attack on one of the camps.

According to the sources, Col. Mathew Foul Gong and Lt. Col. James Mutt defected from SPLA and joined brigadier Galwak Gai along with the soldiers under their command. Also, a number of SPLA soldiers in eastern Upper Nile defected and head for Jonglei state.

Meanwhile, another source said the SPLA command in Jonglei state released a list of 100

Murle leaders wanted on charge of link with renegade Gen. Athor. More than five Murle leaders have already been arrested in Pibor area and are being interrogated. Former Commission of Pibor Country was also arrested by SPLA.

168 soldiers dead or injured in clashes with Colonel Galwak's forces

Al-Ahdath 3/6/10 - About 100 soldiers were killed and 68 others injured in clashes yesterday between SPLA and Colonel Galwak's soldiers in Unity State. Sources report that Galwak's forces overran the SPLA base in Tamur after fierce fighting seizing a large quantity of weapons. The sources added that most of the casualties were from the SPLA side.

Reports also say that some 600 SPLA soldiers have defected to join the forces of renegade General George Athor in the Kafuwat area.

Leaders from Murle community arrested in Juba

Sudan tribune website 2/6/10 - A number of political and military leaders from the Murle community of Pibor County in Jonglei state have been arrested in the South Sudan's capital, Juba.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone on Wednesday in addition to a statement she emailed from Nairobi, Kenya, Mary Boyoi, a popular South Sudanese female artist and member of the Murle Community, said among the leaders arrested on Tuesday included her uncle who previously tried to contest for parliamentary seat during the April elections.

"Last night I talked with my mother. She called me from Juba and informed me that my uncle, William Boren, and four other leaders from the Murle community were arrested at their place of businesses and homes by Military Intelligence."

"I was very shocked to hear this news and extremely concerned for the reason of their arrest. At this point my family has not heard from my Uncle and no one is clear as to why they were arrested. Some of the rumors from the Murle community say they have been detained because of the issue of George Athor and his rebellion," she explained.

Mary Boyoi further explained that her uncle was initially a nominee of the SPLM Political Bureau, but his nomination was later on canceled while he did not react negatively to the move.

"For myself I cannot believe this to be true. My Uncle applied to run as an MP with SPLM. He was nominated and then that nomination was canceled. He accepted that. He did not attempt to run as an Independent or with another party. He stayed true to his commitment with SPLM. He has been a strong SPLM/A supporter since the late 80's. He was one of the first Murle to join the movement," she further explained.

The other men arrested also have been high ranking SPLA commanders and long time SPLM members, she added.

Mary Boyoi also explained that her uncle and others were denied to cast their ballot papers during the April elections because their names were already used by unknown individuals who used them to cast their votes.

"I know they all went to Pibor to vote. The day they were going to vote they found that their names had already been used to cast the ballot. So they left Pibor and returned to Juba. They did not involve themselves in any "rebellion".

Pibor County has recently witnessed a military standoff between the forces of the Sudan

People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and supporters of David Yauyau, a former independent candidate who was angered by the alleged rigging of elections results and reportedly coordinated the move with the renegade former SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff, George Athor Deng.

"My greatest fear now is that my Uncle is [could be] dead. I have lost so many family [members] and friends during the war. My Uncle is now the only one I have. I don't want something bad to happen to him from his own comrades. He has always believed in SPLM/A, and has never worked against them," she concluded.

SSP likely to expel SPLM-DC MPs

Al-Akhbar 3/6/10 – South Sudan Parliament sources said there was strong tendency among the MPs to pass a resolution to expel SPLM-DC MPs from the southern Sudan legislative assembly and to declare the SPLM-DC a “terrorist group” because of killing a Shiluk tribal leader recently. According to the sources, there was also a move to prevent Lam Akol from exercising political activity in the South. The SPLM has accused Lam Akol movement of assassinating and mutilating a Shiluk leader.

S. Sudan army says nine dead in clashes with insurgents

AFP 2/6/10 - Nine people were killed on Wednesday in clashes between south Sudan army forces and insurgents, a southern army official said accusing Khartoum of instigating the violence.

Clashes had occurred on Tuesday in the oil-producing Unity state between the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army and men loyal to renegade Commander Galwak Gai.

"Today (Wednesday), we had clashes with these men in the Mayom district of Unity state," southern army spokesman Kuol Deim Kuol told AFP.

"One person was killed and two were wounded on our side, and eight died on their side," Kuol said.

Galwak Gai loyalists are thought to be close to George Athor, a senior southern officer who lost the gubernatorial race in the southern Jonglei state during the country's April elections.

The southern army accused the men of acting on behalf of Khartoum in a bid to destabilise southern Sudan ahead of a referendum on independence scheduled for January next year, which the Khartoum army denies.

"We have captured a man today (Wednesday) who belongs to the (northern) Sudanese forces," and who was with the insurgents, Kuol said, claiming to prove that Khartoum was behind tensions in the south.

The referendum on independence is a key provision of the a peace deal signed between Khartoum and southern rebels in 2005 to end a two-decade civil war between north and south Sudan which left two million people dead.

Armed men kill Sudanese security officer in Bor

Sudan Tribune website 2/6/10 - A National Intelligence Security Services (NISS) officer has been shot and died hours later in Jonglei State's capital Bor.

Lt. Col. Clement Trika Simon was gunned down by unidentified armed men in his residence

Tuesday at about 10pm local time and died early Wednesday in hospital.

A security source says suspects have been arrested in connection with the killing without revealing further details.

The security officials told the Sudan Tribune that the inferno is being investigated in connection with Tuesday evening attack by men armed with pangas near the same area where the deceased was fired at, the intelligence officer spoke on condition of anonymity since investigations are under way.

The State security committee held a closed-door meeting on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

The deceased body has been transferred to Juba for burial.

Renk inhabitants demand suspension of border demarcation

The Citizen 3/6/10 - Inhabitants of the Renk region have called on the GoSS to suspend the work of the ad hoc technical border demarcation committee until the real locations and geographical features have been defined. They have based their objections on the fact that the committee operates on the basis of the 1920 map of the area they consider invalid for the demarcation process.

Committee formed to monitor Southern Kordofan Population Census

Al-Sahafa 3/6/10 - Acting Minister for Presidential Affairs and the head of the National Housing and Population Council, Bakri Hassan Saleh, has ordered the formation of a committee to monitor and follow up on the complementary census for Southern Kordofan State. The committee comprises a number of lawmakers, representatives of international organizations and civil society organizations as well as experts and technical officials.

In a related development, Southern Kordofan Governor Ahmed Haroun has ordered a state-wide mobilization for the success of the census, saying all the resources of the state would be used for the census. The Governor has also ordered officials of his government to be on stand by to carry out any census related duties.

Sudan's central bank steps in to halt deterioration of local currency

Sudan Tribune website 2/5/10 - The Central Bank of Sudan announced today that it is taking new measures to stabilize the currency market following a sharp drop in the exchange rate of the pound versus the U.S. dollar.

The highest financial authority said in a statement that it will inject more foreign currencies into the market and make it available to banks in order to meet client needs particularly to import goods.

Furthermore, Sudan's central bank said it will tighten control of exchange bureau to enforce rules on selling foreign currencies and crackdown on the black market as well.

Because of banking difficulties, many importers prefer to buy foreign currency at exchange bureau and carry suitcases of hard cash outside Sudan to purchase goods, bypassing Sudan's banks.

Sudanese businessmen often complain that lack of hard currency is restricting their ability to import and have led to low supply of some products raising its prices to the customer and therefore curtailing its demand.

Darfur JEM claims shooting down a Sudanese army helicopter

Sudan Tribune website 2/5/10 - The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said on Wednesday that they have downed shot down a Sudanese Apache army helicopter near South Darfur capital town of Nyala yesterday killing five of its crew.

There was no independent verification by Darfur's joint U.N./AU UNAMID peacekeeping force or the Sudanese army over claims made by JEM.

The military spokesperson of JEM Ali Alwafi also said in the statement that they captured more than a dozen anti-tank and anti-aircraft rocket launchers as well as 40 Land Cruisers in a battle with government forces on Monday. Alwafi further said that they destroyed two army tanks and dozens of vehicles.

The frequency of clashes between JEM and Sudanese government forces has increased dramatically particularly after breakdown in Qatari-sponsored peace talks between the two sides. The rebel group accused Khartoum of violating a framework agreement signed earlier this year calling for a cessation of hostilities.

The matters were complicated by Sudan announcing that it no longer has plans to negotiate with JEM and will instead seek to prosecute their leaders after issuing notices for them through the Interpol.

Since the conflict in Darfur began in 2003, some 2.7 million people have fled their homes and the UN says about 300,000 more have died.

The government says such figures are a massive exaggeration and denies claims that it backed Arab militias accused of ethnic cleansing against black African groups in Darfur.

Court sentenced rapist to 10 years imprisonment

Local dailies 3/6/10 – A criminal court in Khartoum suburb yesterday sentenced man to imprisonment for ten years plus 100 lashes on charge of raping a girl. Another accomplice is also sentenced to imprisonment for three months and fined SDG 50.

Pre-Referendum Watch

Situation is “dangerous”, may lead to “hostile separation” – Al-Mahdi

Akhir Lahza 3/6/10 – National Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi has warned that the country was heading towards “hostile separation”. He said the situation is “dangerous”, citing extremist opinions by some religious groups and the exchange of accusations between the two CPA partners. He said the SPLM is accusing the NCP of rigging elections and supporting armed groups in the South and the NCP is accusing the SPLM of supporting Darfur movements. Al-Mahdi, who was addressing a regular forum yesterday at his residence in Omdurman, warned referendum might lead to “hostile separation”.

NCP Shura (consultation) Council meets on Saturday

Al-Ahdath 3/6/10 – President Al-Bashir will address Saturday meeting of the NCP Shura Council which will focus on two papers about election results and self-determination for southern Sudan. Shura Council rapporteur Abdul Malek Al-Bereir said the meeting would also draw up guidelines and determine the way ahead for the executive and legislative organs to implement President Al-Bashir's election programme. NCP Shura Council Chairman Abu Ali

Magzoub Abu Ali said the Council's recommendations are binding on the executive and the legislative organs.

MPs call for referendum delay

Al-Sahafa 3/6/10 – MPs have called for delay of referendum for five years to give a chance for efforts to make unity attractive. NCP MP Ahmed Abdul Rahman yesterday told a parliament session that the overall situation in the country was deplorable, saying the major challenge is how to keep Sudan united and stable. He criticized the CPA partners for failing to make unity attractive.

Two partners differ on Abyei referendum commission

Al-Ayyam 3/6/10 - Prominent SPLM member Luka Biong has said FVP Kiir held a series of successful meetings in Khartoum on the CPA implementation.

However, Biong said the partners are yet to agree on the Abyei Referendum Commission especially with regards to eligibility of voter. He said that if the two partners fail to reach an agreement the issue would be referred to the UN.

Egypt proposes ten-year interim period if secession decided

Al-Sahafa 3/6/10 – the London-based **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat** newspaper, quoting anonymous sources said that representatives of Eritrea and South Africa to the African-French summit, at a meeting of the countries neighbouring Sudan held on the sidelines of the summit, called for postponement of the southern Sudan referendum on self-determination but Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul-Gheit objected to the delay and proposed an interim period of ten years if the South decides to secede. He said during the interim period UN should have strong role. Reportedly, the UN representative who read out a message from the UNSG to the same meeting said it "would be difficult to convince the southerners to agree to a postponement".

UN forces "ineffective" - Chad leader interviewed by French radio

Text of report by French state-funded public broadcaster Radio France Internationale on 2/6/2010

[Presenter] The Chadian President, Idriss Deby Itno, was interviewed by RFI's Jean-Karim Fall on the sidelines of the 25th Paris-Africa summit in Nice. During the interview, President Deby affirmed that the existing bilateral relations between Chad and Sudan are of good neighbourliness and cooperation. He started by explaining his thoughts on the withdrawal of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, MINURCAT, whom he said have proved ineffective, and that the Chadian army will instead henceforth guarantee the security of displaced people and relief organizations.

Withdrawal of UN peacekeepers

[Fall] Good morning Mr President. With the withdrawal of the UN's Blue Helmets from Chad, will the Chadian army be in a position to guarantee security in refugee camps?

[Deby] Rightly or wrongly, we have often said that Chad does not want the UN [peacekeeping] forces. I am telling you the fact is that since the United Nations' MINURCAT was brought to Chad and right up until the end of its mandate it proved ineffective and played no role whatsoever in providing security either to the refugees, the displaced or to humanitarian organizations.

[Fall] So it was of no benefit whatsoever then?

[Deby] It was of no benefit whatsoever, the forces remained inside their camps surrounded by barbed wire and did not venture out of their camps. Thus, they acted as an integrated security detachment. It was the Chadian gendarmes, army and police personnel who provided real security on the ground for the refugees, the displaced and the humanitarian relief organizations. We have said that it is no longer necessary to maintain ineffective forces in Chad, forces who do not have the means to [word indistinct], furthermore, their mandate has expired. Chad is a sovereign country.

[Fall] How then would you explain the relief organizations' concern over their [MINURCAT's] withdrawal? Do you believe that they have no reason to be concerned?

[Deby] They have no reason to be anxious. In all honesty, with all their operations in Africa and elsewhere it is a question of money. I would prefer that the money is spent elsewhere rather than to have it wasted in Chad with nothing being achieved.

Chad-Sudan relations

[Fall] Mr President, since you attended the inauguration of Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir in Khartoum, do you consider the differences between Chad and Sudan as a thing of the past and have they now ended?

[Deby] I do not need to ask anyone for advice, it was entirely my own decision to go. I realized that it served no purpose to maintain the status quo, I had to go and break the ice. Therefore, I went to break the ice and I remained steadfast in my decision and therefore I have no intention to renege on the initiative that I took. Our relationship will thus remain as it was before with the Sudan, good neighbourly relations and cooperation which is what the Chadian and Sudanese people need. We do not have the right to deny them this.

[Fall] Because you actually believe in the sincerity of the Sudanese leaders?

[Deby] Time will tell. Why would we doubt them?

Expulsion of rebel movement leader from Chad

[Fall] Recently the leader of the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement [JEM], Mr Khalil Ibrahim, was deported from Chad. What was the reason for his deportation? Was he not someone, if I may beg the question, who was quite at home in N'djamena?

[Deby] Well, he is a Sudanese national, and basically, for us it was not a matter of deportation.

[Fall] Chadian authorities did in fact refuse to allow him to disembark from his plane?

[Deby] That was not a deportation. He was in Doha, we accompanied him to Doha. We simply told Khalil that if he wishes to return to Chad and have free access to enter, he must sign the cease-fire accord because it is extremely important and it is prerequisite for the Darfur peace talks. Once Mr Khalil signs the accord, he will be granted free access to come and join his troops [based in western Sudan].

[Fall] But you know him well. Why he has refused to sign the Doha [peace] accord?

[Deby] He actually told me that he signed the accord. I believe that, in all clearness, the NGOs are not speaking with one voice, if there are some on one side who say that he should not sign the accord with [word indistinct]? The countries and NGOs will clearly want to know how you

would expect the Sudanese to reach an agreement.

[Fall] Nevertheless, you have coercive measures since he needs to pass through Chad in order to return to Sudan.

[Deby] No he doesn't feel he needs to return to Sudan. If he signs the accord he will be able to return to Sudan.

[Fall] And what will happen if he does not sign it?

[Deby] Khalid must realize that he bears a very strong responsibility. If he is a true politician, and I believe he is an intelligent politician, he should not just think of himself alone, he should think of the Darfur people who are suffering because of this war and because of his troops. He must reduce the suffering of Darfur men and women who ! are his brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers.

[Fall] Mr President, do you expect the Sudanese government to share a similar attitude: after you decided to expel a number of rebels who (?got rich at your expenses). Do you believe that the Sudanese will similarly expel Chadian rebels who are in the Sudan?

[Deby] We signed a very precise accord in January [2010] with the Sudanese government. Chad has remained committed to the agreements. Sudan fulfilled part of the agreements. There remains a section of the accord yet to be signed and in which we believe Sudan will honour their commitments through to the end.

Electoral calendar

[Fall] A final question, Mr. President, the electoral registration process in Chad has been delayed. Will the electoral calendar be respected?

[Deby] Who told you that? That it has been delayed?

[Fall] Well there are various NGOs and political parties who are concerned over the delays in the registration process.

[Deby] It is not a delay as such. The electoral registration process is supposed to take 50 days. The start of this process was slow, people were afraid. The CENI [Independent National Electoral Commission] took matters in hand and said they had absolute confidence that Chadians will turn up in large numbers throughout the country to register in the polls. We are certain of this.

[Fall] Will the electoral calendar be respected?

[Deby] I do not think there is any reason to disbelieve the CENI.

[Fall] Mr President, thank you very much.

Source: Radio France Internationale,! Paris, in French 0530 gmt 2 Jun 10