

3 November 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- SPLM threatens to withdraw from NISS (**Dailies**)
- Talks on South Sudan referendum remain at deadlock (**ST**)
- 50 cases of suspected swine flu reported, 9 confirmed (**Dailies**)
- Kiir office refutes attributed statements (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Abyei Administration wants three embezzlers arrested (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- 20 killed in clashes between Dinka and Shiluk in Upper Nile (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Speaker orders halt of fuel for MP vehicles (**Al-Ahdath**)
- South Sudan misses over \$200 million with no clear records (**ST**)
- US envoy submits proposals to resolve NCP, SPLM dispute (**Dailies**)
- Kiir's foreign trips preparation for secession – Al-Turabi (**Al-Intibaha**)
- Three people shot dead in Darfur (**Al-Sahafa**)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

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

Highlights

SPLM threatens to withdraw from NISS

Local dailies report SPLM has threatened to withdraw its representatives from the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) if the national security bill is passed. According to **Al-Sahafa**, SPLM parliamentary bloc chairman Yassir Arman said NISS Deputy DG Majak Akut (SPLM) sent a message to FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit suggesting that the Movement should withdraw its representatives should the current national security bill is passed. Arman added that Akut told Kiir that it would be difficult for them to continue in the NISS if a bill which violates the CPA and the constitution is passed. Meanwhile, the National Assembly yesterday withdrew the national security bill from its agenda for more consultation.

Talks on South Sudan referendum remain at deadlock

Sudan Tribune website 2/11/09 — Talks between the 2005 peace partners over the referendum bill remain at deadlock as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement rejects the 66% of voters turnout while the National Congress Party refuses to make any concession over it.

The Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha and the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Riek Machar held an hour long meeting in Khartoum Monday.

"Given the present political environment between the SPLM and the NCP, the atmosphere of the meeting was rather not friendly", said the office of Dr. Riek in a statement released today.

At the meeting, the two CPA signatories revisited the contentious part of the referendum discussion, the 2/3 quorum or simple majority that was rejected by the SPLM. Instead the Juba ruling party offered to extend the voting period to two weeks and called on the NCP to meet somewhere between 50% and 66% for turnout quorum.

However the NCP refused adamantly to move an inch below the 66%. Nevertheless, Mr. Taha showed keenness to extend the voting period to seven days.

The two partners will meet again today in an attempt to find a breakthrough.

50 cases of suspected swine flu reported, 9 confirmed

Local dailies report Federal Ministry of Health Undersecretary Kamal Abdul Gadir as saying that the cases of suspected swine flu have risen to 50 with nine cases have been confirmed but no fatalities. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the Ministry, in a press release yesterday stated that necessary precautionary measures have been taken at seaports and airports to prevent entry of the epidemic.

Kiir office refutes attributed statements

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit's office has dismissed statements attributed to him about having urged southern Sudanese to vote for independence, saying the CPA provides for making unity attractive, **Al-Sahafa** reports. According to Kiir's office, the statement was taken out of its context.

Abyei Administration wants three people arrested for embezzlement

Abyei Area Legal Office calls on Chief Administrator Arop Moyak to take legal measures against

three people accused of embezzling 29 billion Sudanese pounds involving \$59 million worth of contract signed between the Abyei Administration and Ayat Roads and Bridges Company for construction of roads and bridges in Abyei, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports.

20 killed in armed clashes between Dinka and Shiluk in Upper Nile

Akhir Lahza reports 13 people have been killed and 7 wounded in a fresh clashes between the Dink and the Shiluk. Sources told the paper that the Dinka tribe sought the SPLA help to attack the Shiluk stronghold, adding the attack was revenge to killing by the Shiluk of a Dinka tribal leader.

Sudan Tribune website 2/11/09 reported that eight people have been killed in tribal clashes in the Upper Nile region of south Sudan, a minister has confirmed on Monday.

Southern Sudan minister of information said Monday recent fighting occurred on Sunday morning in the village of Nagdyar, east of Malakal, the state capital of Upper Nile.

"We have received reports that at least eight people died in the attack," said Mayom. "That number might increase as we are still waiting for further confirmation from the area."

Sudan started on Sunday voter registration operation ahead of the first free and fair general election, scheduled to take place in April 2010, in the country since more than twenty four years.

Minister Mayom reassured that the isolated incident did not disturb the ongoing registration affirmed the operation has begun calmly and in good condition.

"This was the only incident we have heard of," said Mayom.

Speaker orders halt of fuel for MP vehicles

National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir yesterday partially carried out his threat to stop the entitlement of the SPLM MPs who boycott parliamentary sessions, ***Al-Ahdath*** report. Al-Tahir reportedly ordered stoppage of supply of fuel for vehicles of the MPs. SPLM Parliamentary Bloc chairman Yassir Arman described the measure as "wrong and irresponsible".

South Sudan misses over \$200 million with no clear records

Sudan Tribune website 2/11/09 — The Semi autonomous government of Southern Sudan acknowledged missing of some \$200 million with no clear records showing how this money has been spent.

This comes at a sensitive time when the war ravaged region required food to feed thousands affected by tribal conflicts, poor harvest due to short rainfall in the region, hence prompted UN to appeal for food aid and warning that millions of people may face severe food shortage following poor rains.

Following a series of interviews with members of the press, David Deng Athorbei, minister of finance and economic planning Monday, said has been trying since taking office to follow the missing national fund allegedly located for purchase and deliveries of grains but could not get any clear information of how it has been spent.

The list of companies alleged to have been contracted by the ministry — under the period of Kuol Athian Mawien, former minister of finance and economic planning — to buy and deliver

grains to various states in the region is nowhere found in the records, he said adding this must have been either organized stealing or lack of experience from the concerned ministry's staff.

The minister said the ministerial committee had found out that the former minister, Kuol Athian Mawien, issued hundred of grain contracts worth a total of \$6.2 billion Sudanese pounds.

This discovery surprised everyone because former minister did not inform the southern Sudan Assembly about the planned size of purchases; he said adding that the region did not have enough budgets to honor the agreements.

He further said the same investigation committee revealed that \$200 million to honor of the some contractors for grains and maize was released by the ministry.

However, the enigma is that finance officials at time of investigation could not find any single record indicating which contractors had received \$200. It is not even clear how \$200 million has been paid contractors in the absence of records.

"It is hard to understand how this much has been spent," he said adding that there are people who accepted having been paid but there are no records showing deliveries of grains for which they received money.

"Also there are people, who have actually delivered these commodities and have not been paid," he said describing it as very complicated issue.

The whole annual budget for southern Sudan is only 3 billion pounds but the spending has exceeded.

On his part, former minister Kuol Athian denied vanishing of records saying if there are no records as being claimed, "where did the Committee get information that talks of the lost of \$200 million," he posed. He also said he was surprised by voices denying having informed parliament while he had been directed by both executive and legislature to consider buying grains and deliver them to the affected regions from the reserve funds.

According to the former minister, he was stockpiling grains to stop severe food shortage by selling these commodities at lower government price in the states.

He reiterated there are records within the ministry.

US envoy submits proposals to resolve NCP, SPLM dispute

Local dailies report US envoy Scott Gration has embarked on a series of meetings with Government officials in a bid to achieve rapprochement between the two CPA partners. According to **Al-Watan**, Gration met with MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq and Presidential Adviser Mustafa Ghazi Salah Al-Din who told reporters yesterday that the Government was still reviewing the US new strategy and it would respond to it within two or three weeks. Ghazi also said Gration came with proposals for resolving differences between the two partners over sticky issues. **Al-Rai Al-Aam** stated that Gration told reporters that he was optimistic about the possibility of the two partners overcoming obstacles and challenges to reach a common ground.

Kiir's foreign trips preparation for secession – Al-Turabi

Al-Intibaha reports that PCP leader Hassab Al-Turabi has reiterated that 90% of the southern Sudanese are for secession. Al-Turabi, who was speaking to the Qatari Al-Raiya newspaper,

described the situation in the Sudan as dangerous, adding that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit's trips to the neighbouring countries and some African states were intended to prepare for independence.

Three people shot dead in Darfur

Al-Sahafa reports three people have been shot dead by unknown gunmen in the town of Nyala, South Darfur. According to eyewitness, two gunmen began beating up a child in front of his parents' residence but when the mother attempted to intervene both the child and the mother were gunned down and a third person who tried to chase the attackers was also killed.