

31 January 2010

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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

Highlights

AU summit kicks off today

UNSG Ban Ki-moon has said that UN would work to maintain Sudan's unity and to avoid possible session of the South, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports. He told reporters yesterday in Addis Abba that it was important that referendum on self-determination takes place in January 2011 and that UN and AU should prepare for the referendum regardless of its result.

Meanwhile, the AU summit will kick off today in Addis Ababa and will be followed by a closed meeting of the AU leaders for consultation on formation of the Union's executive office and the drafting committee.

AFP 30/1/10 reported that the African Union (AU) will kick off its 14th summit Sunday, with a rift over Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's likely bid to keep the organisation's chair set to overshadow talks on the continent's many conflicts.

The summit's official theme is information technology and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was expected to highlight the importance of putting the Millennium Development Goals back on their 2015 target.

But the 53-member body's annual meeting at the Addis Ababa headquarters looked set to be hijacked by one of its most controversial leaders.

Kaddafi was elected almost by default a year ago but set the tone for his tenure by claiming to be the "king of kings" and vowing to achieve the "United States of Africa" project he has championed for years.

"Kaddafi's chairmanship has been very harmful to the AU's image, notably in the handling of political crises such as Madagascar and Guinea," said an official close to Jean Ping, who heads the body's main executive arm.

The system of rotating regional blocs should hand the job to a southern African leader and a consensus had begun to emerge around Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika, but some diplomats fear Kaddafi will put up a fight.

"It is said that Kaddafi is determined to take this to a vote because he thinks enough countries will support him," an AU official said.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who arrived in the Ethiopian capital on Friday, is another leader who is likely to attract some attention.

His movements have been closely monitored since the International Criminal Court last year issued an arrest warrant for him over the atrocities committed in the Darfur region since 2003.

The summit is also expected to focus, as is the case every year, on the continent's various political crises and armed conflicts, notably Somalia, Guinea, Madagascar, Niger and Ivory Coast.

Al-Sahafa reports that Presidents Al-Bashir and Idriss Deby of Chad are supposed to meet on the sidelines of AU summit in Addis but sources said the latter might not come to Addis.

President Al-Bashir and UNSG Ban Ki-moon are also likely to meet in Addis as part of an African mini-summit. Reportedly, it will be the first time meeting since Al-Bashir's ICC indictment.

UN will work to maintain Sudan's unity, Ban Ki-Moon says

Sudan Tribune website 30/1/10 — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said today his organization would work to avoid southern Sudan secession in joint effort with the African Union.

Ban's remarks come one day after similar statements by the chairman of the African Union (AU) Commission Jean Ping who said secession would lead to another war in Sudan and push Darfur rebels to seek self-determination.

"The UN has a big responsibility with the AU to maintain peace in Sudan and make unity attractive," Ban Ki-Moon said in a joint interview with AFP and RFI radio in Addis Ababa where he attends the 14th African Union Summit.

"Whatever the result of the referendum we have to think how to manage the outcome. It is very important for Sudan but also for the region," he said; stressing "We'll work hard to avoid a possible secession."

The UN chief said the African Union must help ensure the elections and the referendum are carried out in a credible, transparent way.

"There are many fundamental issues: citizenship, borders. All should be resolved so that the referendum could be held peacefully. I'm going to discuss these issues extensively with the African leaders," he added.

Taha and Kiir to meet today in Juba

Local dailies report that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and VP Ali Osman Taha will meet today in Juba in a bid to resolve dispute over border demarcation and the census results.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, VP Taha who is due in Juba today will hold consultations with GoSS senior officials on a range of issues including demarcation of the border, the census results and the need to hold elections in a conducive atmosphere.

Meanwhile **Rai Al-Shaab** reports informed sources as saying that the NCP is putting intensive pressure on the SPLM to accept election delay and to withdrawal its presidential candidate Yasir Arman.

SPLM political bureau to convene emergency meeting today

The SPLM Political Bureau is to convene an emergency meeting in Juba today to discuss enhanced dialogue with the NCP, the elections and CPA implementation as well as other key political developments, **Al-Ahdath** reports. SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said yesterday that complexities involving the north-south border demarcation and other pressing national issues necessitated this meeting. He also reiterated that the SPLM would not participate in the parliamentary polls if southern Sudan does not get 30% of parliamentary

seats, calling on southerners to boycott the parliamentary polls if these issues are not addressed.

ICC to decide on genocide charge for Sudan's Bashir

Reuters 28/1/10 - The ICC in The Hague said on Thursday it would decide on February 3 whether Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir should be charged with genocide.

ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said earlier on Thursday he expected a genocide charge against Bashir within weeks. He appealed the earlier ruling that there were not enough grounds for the genocide count.

Meanwhile **The Sudan Vision** 30/1/10 reported that the Sudanese Government has downplayed an announcement by the ICC on an intention to issue a decision on February 3 to allow the ICC Chief Prosecutor, Lewis Moreno Ocampo to file genocide count against President Al-Bashir.

Mohammed Hassan Al-Amin, the National Assembly Speaker, said, "For us the matter is unimportant and entirely rejected. The ICC means nothing to us. "We are neither members of the Court nor recognize it. It is part of conspiracy against Sudan and Ocampo is a tool for that conspiracy,"

In a press statement to **Sudan Vision**, Al-Amin underlined that Sudan has not and will not recognize the ICC as it is not a member to it. He said, "The Sudanese Constitution and courts are what we recognize on our land", adding, "We are not concerned with Ocampo or any other party, and, as Sudanese we can elect Al-Bashir President of the Sudan and Ahmed Haroun as a state governor. Moreover, we can choose Abu Garda himself - who appeared before the International Court- as an MP as long as he is a Sudanese citizen. That is our decision which we will not compromise."

Reuters 29/1/10 reported that the Sudanese Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem also reacted angrily to comments from the ICC Chief Prosecutor.

"The enemies of Sudan" were trying to use Moreno-Ocampo to destroy the peace process for Sudan's western Darfur region and insisted that Khartoum would never cooperate with The Hague-based court.

He said Moreno-Ocampo was "just a screwdriver in the workshop of double standards and injustice and the ICC is the European Guantanamo." He was referring to the controversial U.S. military prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Two Darfur commanders to appear before ICC next week - sources

Sudan Tribune website 30/1/10 – The remaining two Darfur rebel commanders charged with masterminding an attack on African Union (AU) peacekeepers will appear voluntarily before the judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) next week, Sudan Tribune has learned.

The leader of the Darfur United Resistance Front (URF) Bahr Idriss Abu Garda is the only one of the three rebel commanders who appeared so far in connection with the AU peacekeepers assault in 2007 that left 12 soldiers dead and wounded eight others according to court documents.

The victims of the attack on the peacekeepers came from Nigeria, Mali, Senegal and Botswana.

The confirmation of charges of Abu Garda took place last October and a decision is expected to

be made shortly on whether the evidence present warrants that he should stand trial. The URF chief denied that he ordered the attack on the AU troops.

The names of the two other rebels have not been disclosed but they are believed to be Abdallah Banda, a former JEM army general who now leads a JEM splinter group and Saleh Jarbo from Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)-Unity faction.

The sources refused to say whether Banda and Jarbo have arrived in the Hague or whether they are en route.

The Kuwait based Al-Jarida newspaper quoted Labeed Abdal today who is a Kuwaiti attorney revealed that he has been picked by the ICC judges to represent the defense in the rebel cases though he did not specify which of the two he has been asked to represent.

Abdal added that he will travel to The Hague on Tuesday to attend the first session which is likely to be a procedural hearing in which the date for the confirmation of charges will be set.

Sudan rejects US charge on arms transfers to south

Reuters 29/1/10 - Sudan's U.N. ambassador on Friday dismissed as "irresponsible" U.S. allegations that weapons from northern Sudan were going to armed groups in the semi-autonomous south ahead of a nationwide April election.

Earlier this week the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said Washington was concerned about the flow of arms, including heavy weapons, into southern Sudan, and believed they were coming from northern Sudan and neighboring countries.

Sudanese Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem told Reuters that Khartoum "categorically denied" Rice's allegations.

"The statement by the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. attributing arms flows to south Sudan to the north is most irresponsible," he said in an interview.

"It demonstrates that Susan Rice is still imprisoning herself in the past and failed to move from an activist position to that of a worthy representative of a superpower."

He added that it was U.S. arms sales that were making the world less safe, not weapons from his oil-rich African nation.

U.N. officials have said privately that they, too, suspect the north was supplying southern militants with weapons.

Misseriya leader threatens to stop oil production

A leader from the Misseriya tribe has threatened to stop oil production in southern Kordofan if the amount of two percent is not allocated to them as provided for in the CPA, the **Citizen** reports. Hassan Maati said yesterday that as a tribe their destiny is linked to the Abyei and pointed out that Al-Mujalad, Debab and Meiram areas would be part of Abyei if the south separates.

Gunman kills six Misseriya south Bahr el Arab

Reliable sources informed the newspaper yesterday that a Dinka gunman shot dead six Misseriya in an area located south of Bahr el Arab, **Al-Watan** reports. The sources said the

armed man attacked the Misseriya while en route to their camp. SPLA authorities arrested the man and cattle is said to be the reason behind the incident.

Misseriya objects NGO activity in the South

The Misseriya have formally protested to UN and EU against organizations which are working in the field of development in the south, *Al-Intibaha* reports. The Tribe also intimated its reservations over Abyei to the EU delegation, reiterating its rejection of referendum in the area and accused the NCP and SPLM of creating a bottleneck situation for the territory. Misseriya leading figure Ahmed Al-Tom said the EU delegation promised them to facilitate the holding of a peaceful co-existence conference between the Misseriya and Dinka soon.

Abyei Chief says unnamed armed parties hamper border demarcation

Ajras Al-Hurriya reports that Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop has accused unnamed military parties of obstructing the work of the Abyei border demarcation committee. He told a rally in Khartoum that the border demarcation committee had started work but now faces intimidation at the northern parts of the area.

Arop called upon the UN to protect the civilians in the area pursuant to Article IV of the Abyei Protocol. He said he was surprised that a joint political committee for Abyei (NCP, SPLM), intended to receive and study border demarcation results, is yet to be formed. Arop expressed fears that the area might be barred from participation in the forthcoming polls.

Government to maintain partnership with INGOs

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs affirmed that “sudanization” of humanitarian work in the country would be carried out gradually, *Al-Wifaq* reports. Humanitarian Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Ambassador Charles Manyang told *SMC* that the “sudanization” would be carried out sooner or later since it is a presidential decision but it would be done gradually to avoid a gap and that the Ministry would maintain the existing partnership between national INGOs and INGOs for a long time so that national cadres could benefit from foreign experience.

GoSS calls on international community for urgent aid

Al-Intibaha reports GoSS has appealed to the international community to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Warrap and Jonglei states where bloody intertribal fighting is raging and food is short due to attack on relief convoys. Speaking to reporters following GoSS meeting, Acting Information Minister Madott Yar said Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong proposed a workshop to determine south’s priorities for 2010-2011.

Kiir redeploys SPLA commanders in preparation to step down as army chief

Sudan Tribune website 30/1/10 – A number of senior officers in the SPLA are expected to be redeployed amid what military sources say signals the expected stepping down of General Salva Kiir Mayardit as army chief.

The source added that General Kiir is also expected to retire a number of army generals in the chain of command as he retires and looks for a close and loyal officer to him to head the military Command Council.

General Kiir by the virtue of being the president of the semi-autonomous Southern Sudan is also the Commander-in-Chief of the SPLA.

He is the SPLM party’s candidate for the region’s presidency in the upcoming elections and the law requires that he steps down from the army.

He is currently the head of the SPLA Command Council, which is the highest army body composed of more than 40 active senior military officers.

Major General Gatduel Gatluak, popularly known as Gatduel Nyakuai, who was previously the overall commander of Division 5 in Lakes state has been redeployed to Unity state to command Division 4. Major General Charles Lam has been transferred from the General Headquarters in Bilpam, 3 miles away from Juba, and redeployed to command Division 5 in Lakes state to replace Major General Gatduel Gatluak.

Other redeployments of heads of Divisions and retirements are also expected in the next few days.

It is not yet confirmed whether the retirement, if effected, may also include General Paulino Matip Nhial, who is currently in Unity state.

Gen. Matip is currently number two in the army's chain of command per the 2006 Juba Declaration agreement that unified the two forces of the former South Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF) and the SPLA.

The source has disclosed that Kiir has been holding a series of meetings with senior army generals at the army headquarters about the expected changes.

NEC rejects three presidential candidates

The NEC yesterday formally released list of names of ten presidential candidates but three others were rejected who may appeal to the Supreme Court within seven days and the court's ruling would be binding on the Commission, *local dailies* report.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 301/10 the official presidential runners include Omer Hassan Al-Bashir (National Congress Party); Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi (Umma Party); Hatem Al-Sir (Democratic Unionist Party); Yasir Arman (Sudan People Liberation Movement); Abdullah Deng Nhial (Popular Congress Party); Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud (Sudanese Communist Party); Mubarak Al-Fadil (Umma Reform and Renewal Party); Abdel-Aziz Khalid (Sudan Alliance Forces); Kamil Al-Tayib Idriss (Independent); Ahmed Goha (Independent).

However, the commission rejected three presidential candidates including a female saying they did not meet the statutory requirements such as gathering a specific number of signatures in a certain number of states.

Munir Sheik Al-Deen (The New National Democratic Party); Fatima Abdel-Mahmood (The Socialist Democratic Union); Abdullah Aki Ibrahim (Independent) were disqualified.

The only female candidate, Fatima Abdel-Mahmood, said the ruling was a conspiracy against women and the party would appeal to the courts. "This is a form of discrimination," she told Reuters.

Abdel-Mahmood's deputy Abdullah Mahmoud said the NEC rejected them as they had not stamped their papers at state level, despite being told by the NEC leadership that the central office in Khartoum could do that when they handed their papers in a day ahead of the January 27 deadline.

"We even collected our signatures twice because the first time they said it had to be done on

their papers," he said. "When we handed in our papers again they said they were accepted. This is their error not ours."

Independent candidate Abdallah Ali Ibrahim said he had expected to be rejected as he had collected 16,000 signatures from only 15 states, but had submitted his candidacy anyway to highlight the problems with the system.

"We have a percentage of illiteracy of 70 percent in this country but they ask for 15,000 signatures," he told Reuters.

He said he doubted the elections would be free or fair "not just because the government is dictatorial but because the other dancer in this tango is a bad dancer."

Elections Committee chief survives kidnapping in River Nile State

Local dailies report that the Higher Election Committee Chairman in the River Nile State Osman Al-Bahi has survived a kidnapping attempt by unidentified armed group. The armed group attempted to break in his house last Friday to drag him away at gunpoint but they fled when he shout for help.

Bashir "blackmailing" South over elections – Official

VoANews.com 31/1/10 - A Southern Sudanese official says Khartoum has cut off talks with the South in a move to pressure the South's ruling party into withdrawing its candidate for Sudanese presidency. The official said that his party was now seeking outside intervention to ensure the peace agreement is honored.

Southern Sudan's head of mission in Kenya, John Andruga Duku, told reporters in Nairobi that Bashir Government is using the ongoing peace talks to "blackmail" the SPLM into supporting President Bashir's incumbent candidacy.

"We learned yesterday that the NCP suspended their dialogue with SPLM on condition that they can only resume this dialogue if SPLM withdraws its candidacy for presidency of the republic of Sudan," he said.

Duku says that due to SPLM's current stalemate with Khartoum, the former rebels are seeking the mediation of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

"We are asking IGAD, the custodian to this peace agreement, immediately to convene an extraordinary summit, in which both parties - the SPLM and National Congress Party - will be called upon to provide an evaluation on the CPA," he said.

Sudan census dispute threatens national polls - foreign minister

Reuters 29/1/10 - Sudan risks a boycott of the forthcoming national assembly elections by the southern part of the country if a dispute over last year's census data is not sorted out, the foreign minister said on Friday.

The south accuses the north of manipulating the results of the census to deny the south adequate representation in parliament, commensurate with its size, in order to pass self-serving legislation.

Figures from the census put the number of Sudanese living in the south at about 20 percent of the total population, irking southern leaders who cite previous counts which put the number at

about a third of the population.

Talks between both sides to reach a consensus were put on hold and they are expected to resume next month.

"It has to be resolved otherwise the south will not participate in the elections of national parliament," Deng Alor, who hails from the south, told Reuters on the sidelines of an African Union meeting.

"I'm confident that this issue will be resolved because it is not in the interest of the National Congress that the south does not participate in the elections at the level of national parliament."

Southerners are worried a parliament dominated by northern lawmakers would throw the terms of the agreement out of the window, Alor said, justifying a boycott of the national assembly election due to be held in April.

"There is politics behind it ... there is a possibility of the national parliament changing the (2005) agreement, even changing the right to self determination for the people of south Sudan if there is no reasonable blocking minority," Alor said.

Civil society groups and the AU fear the disputes in Sudan could set the stage for violence during the vote or after.

"Everybody is conscious about this. Everybody knows that it is an explosive situation. Everybody is very careful that this issue is resolved and resolved adequately. Nobody wants war, nobody wants insecurity," Alor said.

"While we admit -- like a powder keg -- that the situation is chaotic we are still hopeful the issues could be handled and resolved."

Alor added that the problems revolved around the country's oil sector where foreign firms are active.

"Sudan has been dependent on the oil revenues and Sudan has neglected the non-oil revenues. Ninety percent of Sudan's budget is dependent on oil and 90 percent of the oil is in the south."

"So if the south separates in 2011 then the north is going to be in a very bad situation economically so what is at the centre is the politics of the money."

The foreign minister added the relationship between Sudan and Chad had improved after bitter rows in recent years.

"The relationship between Chad and Sudan is good. At least the level of political hostility has reduced we have normalised diplomatic relations between the two countries, we are on talking terms with Chad," he said.

NEC invites media to endorse a binding code of ethics

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has told a consultative meeting convened with leading media representatives in Khartoum yesterday that they expect a decision to be taken later today to guarantee and control access for the political parties to the media, *Rai Al-Aam* reports. Acknowledging the little flow of information from the NEC to the media, Al-Hadi Mohamed Ahmed who heads the electoral body's Voter Registry Department invited the media

to formulate a code of conduct to ensure ethical and clean practice toward the electoral. He also revealed that the NEC is considering options to set a limit for spending on elections campaign.