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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

"Athor is a criminal, he must face justice", says South Sudan President

Sudan Tribune website 4/7/10 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has described the former SPLA deputy Chief of Staff for Moral and Political Orientation, Lt. Gen. George Athor Deng as “a criminal and that he must face justice”.

In statements in Juba, President Kiir said the decision by Gen. Athor to rebel against the GoSS after losing the elections is unacceptable.

"It was wrong for Athor to rebel against the Government and went ahead to kill innocent people at Doleib Hill after learning that he had lost elections. This was a criminal act and he is a criminal."

President Kiir said Athor must face justice for crimes he has committed against innocent people. He further warned those who lost elections not to resort to violence as a way of addressing their grievances.

"I personally talked to Gen. Athor on the phone and told him not to rebel against the government but instead seek legal avenues to address his grievances. He didn't listen instead he went ahead and attacked SPLA forces killing some of them. Now he must face justice for the crimes he committed against SPLA and civilians," President Kiir stressed.

He called on Southern Sudanese to unite ahead of referendum as this is an important exercise that will affect them.

Gen. Athor had contested as an independent candidate for gubernatorial position for Jonglei against the incumbent Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk but lost the elections.

2 people killed, 2 abducted in Jonglei

Sudan Tribune website 4/7/10 - Two people were killed and two children were abducted on Sunday following a raid in Bor, the capital of Jonglei State.

The day-time attack in Menymeny, a suburb in northern Bor town and just beyond the cemetery near Block 10, is one of a series of raids that has rocked Jonglei state in the past weeks.

Police responded by sending a contingent in a pick-up car to the scene of crime and that efforts made to get police statement were futile by press time.

The attackers took advantage of heavy rains to ambush the victims and dashed away with the kids said to be less than 13 years of age...

US special envoy to skip El-Fasher's international meeting on Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 3/7/10 - The US special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration will not be present at a meeting for international envoys that will be held in North Darfur's capital city of El-Fasher, sources tell *Sudan Tribune*.

Among the attendees is the Chinese envoy to Africa Liu Guijin, Russian envoy to Sudan Mikhail Margelov, joint United Nations and African Union mediator Djibril Bassole along with officials from the Arab League and Europe.

Sudan state media said that the purpose of the meeting is to review the security and humanitarian situation the war ravaged region and evaluate the progress of the political process that is currently underway in the Arab Gulf state of Doha.

Today the Chinese envoy urged all parties to Darfur conflict to negotiate a political solution saying that is the only way to resolve the seven years old crisis.

A source close to the meetings on Monday attributed Gration's absence to "disagreements" with the head of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Ibrahim Gambari whose headquarters are in El-Fasher.

"Gration does not like the fact that Gambari wants to play a greater role in Darfur's political process and feels that he is pulling the rug from under him" said the source who asked not to be named.

According to **Al-Sahafa** 5/7/10, the French, US and British envoys sent their regrets that they would not be available for the meeting.

“We will resort to international arbitration to settle Halayeb” – Presidential aide

Al-Sahafa 5/7/10 – Presidential Assistant Musa Mohamed Ahmed said Khartoum would never give up the Halayeb Triangle and that the Sudanese government was mulling the possibility of seeking international arbitration should Cairo continues to claim sovereignty over the territory.

However, a high-level Egyptian diplomatic source said Halayeb is an Egyptian territory, saying Egyptian authorities consider it a “redline”.

Security blocks press conference

Khartoum Monitor 5/7/10 – Security authorities yesterday blocked a press conference which was supposed to be held by the Africa Justice Organization at the Grand Holiday Villa. The authorities said the organizers of the conference did not obtain permission from the Humanitarian Aid Commission. The press conference was intended to focus on unity and separation.

One child killed, 4 injured in clashes in Southern Kordofan

Miraya FM 4/7/10 - one child was killed and four injured in clashes between police forces and citizens in Kurgul village, 70 kilometers from Kadugli in southern Kordofan

state. Radio Miraya's correspondent in the area said that police were in pursuit of 3 suspects, when they clashed with citizens there.

Pre-referendum Watch

AU invites NCP and SPLM for a meeting in Khartoum on referendum

Al-Sahafa 5/7/10 – A reliable source revealed that the AU has invited the two CPA partners to hold a decisive meeting on 17 July in Khartoum for discussion on the CPA implementation including post-referendum issues.

Meanwhile, President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak's special envoy is expected to arrive in Juba today to assess the progress of the development projects being implemented by the government of Egypt.

Abyei residents to stage demonstration today

The Citizen 5/7/10 – The civil community organizations will organize a peaceful demonstration today in Abyei to put pressure on the two CPA partners to expedite the formation of the Abyei referendum commission.

The demonstration will hand over a petition to UNMIS-Abyei, the representatives of the EU, AU and IGAD as well as the Abyei Chief Administrator.

According to **Al-Ayyam** 5/7/10, the demonstrators will also demand the demarcation of the Abyei boundaries in accordance with PCA award.

“Separation is the end of Sudan” – Blue Nile Governor

Al-Sahafa 5/7/10 – Blue Nile Governor Malik Aggar has called on politicians in the North and the South to stop political hypocrisy and take the side of their people who cherish unity, adding there are still chances to make unity attractive, pledging to support unity option because separation will mean the “end of the Sudan”. Aggar made the remarks while addressing a session of the local legislative assembly.

Observer group pledges commitment towards referendum

Sudan Tribune website 4/7/10 - Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE), a domestic observer body, has pledged its full commitment towards ensuring success in Sudan's forthcoming Referendum.

SuNDE, a non-partisan coalition of over 75 Sudanese civil society organizations, is the largest domestic monitoring organization in Southern Sudan, having played an instrumental role during the April 2010 general elections.

The domestic observer group, however, still maintains its commitment in the referendum, both at the registration process, monitoring and declaration of results.

"SuNDE pledges to document and report to the public the findings of its observation efforts. SuNDE's observation of the 2011 referendum will help promote transparency and build public confidence in the process," Mr. Edmond Yakani, the SuNDE

Coordinator told *Sudan Tribune*.

Reportedly, the members of the observer body are optimistic that the referendum will be conducted peacefully and in accordance with the international standards for elections. As such, they reaffirmed their commitment to remain non-partisan throughout the referendum process.

"SuNDE remains committed to providing the public with a neutral and non-partisan accounting of the referendum processes," Lony Ruot, the SuNDE Chairperson said, adding that, "Members of SuNDE pledge not to advocate for either unity or separation during the referendum process."

Meanwhile, the organization noted with concern evidence that preparations for the 2011 referendum remain far behind schedule.

In essence, SuNDE strongly urged Sudan's Government to form an independent Referendum Commission tasked with overseeing all these processes.

SuNDE's statement comes nearly a month after a coalition of civil society activists formed the Southern Sudan Civil Society Referendum Taskforce, which joined a pro-separation procession organized by various youth entities including the SPLM youth league.

The Taskforce, though sharing the name, is different from the high level politically empowered Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce chaired by the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar.

Pressure group takes referendum campaign to remote villages

Sudan Tribune website 4/7/10 - A pressure group comprising church leaders, youth, women, local activists and elderly in the southern Sudan's rural town of Alek, Gogrial West County of Warrap state, has extended referendum campaign to remote villages.

The local activists viewed as part of the regional pressure group dubbed as countdown on southern referendum, on Saturday took its first ever campaign to three villages of Riang Athieng, Ameth and Atukuel, a home village of ex-Warrap State governor, Tor Deng Mawien.

The campaign was considered by many as part of southern activities against political lobbies favoring unity of Sudan through implementation of developmental projects under unity support funds.

However, Wek Agoth, a primary head teacher in Alek told *Sudan Tribune* that the campaign was part of the local initiatives to prepare the local population ahead of the actual date of the referendum.

"This is a non-political pressure group. It is a local initiative meant to prepare our people to be ready for actual date of the conduct of referendum because most of our people are not prepared. We decided to form it because we realized that most of our people

everywhere I go are inadequately informed and therefore do not know what the referendum means to them," said Agoth.