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Media Monitoring Report

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Referendum Watch

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Highlights

We will safeguard freedoms but not tolerate chaos – President Al-Bashir

Local dailies 6/2/11 - Addressing members of Sufi sects in the town of Kabashi in Khartoum North yesterday, President Al-Bashir said the issue of Sudan's identity is now sorted out after the South opts for secession, pointing out that 98% of population in the North are Muslims. "Islam has become the official religion of the state," he told the crowd but denied that an Islamic Sharia law was the reason for separation of the South.

The President said his government would guarantee freedoms but warned that any one who seeks to cause trouble would be dealt with strictly. "Our doors, hearts and hands are open for dialogue. We want to broaden the base of participation," he said.

Reuters (Khartoum) 5/2/11 reported that Sudan's president promised a future of freedom and open government in a strikingly conciliatory speech following a week of small protests in Sudan and an uprising in neighbouring Egypt.

Al-Bashir's address to supporters on the outskirts of Khartoum was short on detail and made only a glancing reference to recent unrest but was notable for its disarming rhetoric.

"We open the door for freedom. We have nothing to fear from freedom ... Freedom is guaranteed by the constitution," Bashir told the crowd.

"Anybody who wants to make chaos, we will deal with him according to the law. Our doors and our hearts and our hands are open without fear." ...

Bashir, usually known for his more combative rhetoric, said he accepted almost all southerners had voted for separation.

He reminded the crowd that his National Congress Party (NCP) had also won the support of most northerners in last year's presidential and parliamentary elections.

"The NCP has a mandate but we open the door for everybody who wants to participate," Bashir told the crowd in an apparent reference to northern opposition parties, some of whom have recently called for protests...

"Ninety-eight percent of the people in north Sudan are Muslims... Islam is the official religion of the state, and the state will be governed by Sharia'a, and this is the basis on which we are going to build a new state" he said, according *Sudan Tribune.com* 5/2/11

"The new state in the North is the second republic and it is the Salvation in new phase," he said, according to *Sudan Vision* 6/2/11.

"The issues of the South is political and has begun long before the Salvation regime," voiced Al Bashir, adding that the Salvation has sacrificed the best of her sons in the war, a thing which was

not done by any other northern political power.

He assured the gathering that the Sudan economy would not be negatively impacted by south Sudan secession, as oil in the North is more than that in the South besides gold. “We have surplus of cement which we can export, we will also export sugar and promote agricultural produce,” he added.

During the occasion the sects handed-over the president a Document of Covenant signed by nine sect leaders. The document underscored that the Sufi Sects, across the board in the Sudan, would work for bolstering the social fabric, backup the Islamic discourse and support the president, praising the Islamic achievements he accomplished.

The document added that the Sufi sects have a remarkable role in entrenching the principles and philosophy of Islam in the Sudan at large and Darfur in particular.

Sufis Sects lauded the President's call for forming broad-based government in order to confront current challenges. Sufis movements called on all national political forces as well as NGOs to unify their stances, in order to achieve stability and peace allover Sudan and moreover to prevent hostile forces from shattering peace in the country. Sufis sects and leaders of Sufis have supported the tolerant religious attitudes allover the country.

Al-Bashir, Kiir to take part in official release of referendum result tomorrow

Al-Sahafa 6/2/11 – FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit is due in Khartoum today heading a high-level GoSS delegation which will participate in a ceremony for the official release of the final results of the referendum tomorrow in Khartoum. According to the newspaper, the SSRC decided to announce the official results tomorrow because of absence of appeals against preliminary results.

Reportedly, the US will issue statement after President Al-Bashir's recognition of the vote results and the statement will include several decisions as part of US commitment towards Sudan if the result is accepted.

Presidency to hold a meeting Tuesday

Al-Ahdath 6/2/11 – The Presidency is to hold a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the CPA pending issues. SPLM delegation is due in Khartoum today to prepare for the meeting.

According to GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum, the meeting would focus on issues of border demarcation, Abyei, nationality and relationship between the North and the South in the field of oil.

Mutiny by south Sudan ex-militiamen kills 20 - army

AFP 5/2/11 - A rebellion by former pro-Khartoum militiamen in south Sudan against giving up their heavy weapons sparked two days of clashes which killed 20 people in oil-producing Upper Nile state, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Fighting in Malakal, the state capital, close to the border with the north, killed 20 people and wounded at least 24, said Philip Aguer, spokesman for the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"There was heavy fighting with mortars fired by both sides, but the clashes have now been brought under control," Aguer said.

"Our forces in the SPLA, along with the United Nations peacekeepers, have succeeded in creating a buffer zone between the two sides and to bring the situation to an end."

Upper Nile's information minister Peter Lam Both said fighting had also erupted in three other areas of the sensitive state on Saturday morning -- Paloich, Malut and Maban.

"The fighting started this morning but is now over... We don't have any casualty figures but we're fearing the numbers are heavy," Lam told AFP.

The fighting around Malakal airport was sparked on Thursday when loyalists of Gabriel Tang, who commanded a pro-Khartoum militia during the 1983-2005 civil war between north and south, objected to surrendering their heavy weaponry.

The former militiamen are deployed alongside regular northern troops in so-called Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) with southern forces that patrol the town under the peace agreement that ended the civil war.

In reality the units are far from integrated and the component elements effectively operate as separate forces.

The northern troops are shifting their equipment back home as the south gears up for its expected international recognition as an independent state in July following its overwhelming vote for secession in last month's landmark referendum.

But the ex-militiamen, whose roots are in the south, want to keep hold of their units' weaponry and they have put up a ferocious resistance to its redeployment.

Saturday's fighting outside Malakal broke out for the same reasons as the earlier mutiny, Lam said, adding that the militiamen there were not necessarily Tang supporters.

"The SAF (Sudanese armed forces -- the northern army) JIUs have men of southern as well as northern origin in them. Now with the northern section moving back with their equipment towards the border, the southerners want to keep the artillery," he explained.

Six civilians and one SPLA soldier were killed in the crossfire in Malakal, as the southern force tried to intervene, the southern military spokesman said. Two of the dead were young children, Aguer added.

Six regular northern troops and seven former militiamen were also killed in the fighting, he said. Two civilians and a total of 22 members of the northern force were wounded.

Aguer said the southern army was now assisting in the redeployment of the heavy weapons. "We are now supporting the movement of the tanks back to the north," he said.

Malakal was a key garrison town for the Khartoum government during the civil war and it still houses much heavy weaponry supplied to northern troops and their militia allies.

Tang gave up his own position in the northern army after accepting an offer of clemency from southern president Salva Kiir late last year but many of his men remain in northern units.

"The town is now calm, and people are now back out walking on the streets," Upper Nile information ministry official Bartholomew Pakwan Abwol said.

"The situation has obviously created a lot of concern in the town, but we are hoping that things can now return as quickly as possible to normal."

The Joint Integrated Units deployed in sensitive areas like Malakal are due to be phased out in July when the interim arrangements set by the 2005 peace agreement come to an end.

According to **Reuters** (Juba) 4/2/11, at least six people, including two children, were killed in a shootout among Sudanese soldiers in the southern town of Malakal, a past flashpoint of north-south tensions, officials and U.N. sources said on Friday.

Fighting broke out among members of the same military unit after some resisted new orders to move to north Sudan in a redeployment ahead of the expected independence of south Sudan, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The incident underlined the challenges facing Sudan as it tries to untangle joint north-south military units and other state bodies ahead of the split, expected to take place on July 9.

"The fighting began last night and didn't stop until 11.30 a.m. today (Friday). At the hospital 28 were admitted and six of them have now died. Two were army and four were civilians including two small children," said Bartholomew Pakwan Abwol, spokesman for the government of the surrounding Upper Nile state.

Malakal, the main town in Upper Nile, has been patrolled by a joint north-south military unit made up of troops from the northern Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"There was a disagreement between (members of) the SAF component in Malakal. They were asked to move north," said a U.N. official on condition of anonymity.

"We are trying to get a very badly wounded man to hospital right now," another U.N. official told Reuters.

Abwol said the protesting SAF soldiers were ethnically southerners.

"Some are refusing to go north and be disarmed. They are southerners and they have rights here. But they think they will have no rights in the north," he said.

Sudan Vision 6/2/11 reports that the JDB has faulted soldiers from the joint integrated unit attached to the armed forces at the city of Malakal for the rebellion in the town, indicting that some of these individuals who are from Nuer tribe-are loyal to Major-General Gabriel Tang Ginya, the officer who deserted the armed forces.

The JDB has rebuffed reports by the media that the mutiny was caused by matters relating to settlement of dues prior to moving to the North at the Armed forces orders.

The spokesman for JDB Major General Ahmed Abdullah Al Nawo told SMC that the main reason for the mutiny was that the rebels are from the Nuer tribe who maintain old organizational relations with Major-General Gabriel Tang-Ginya, an officer who deserted the armed forces, adding that the armed forces will take legal procedures against him.

"The previous JDB had issued a decision on Jan 31.01.2011 for the redeployment of the joint units to the North and South according to the peace agreement provided the redeployment would start by decreasing the number of forces and equipment with effect from Feb. 1, 2011, the spokesman said.

He added the armed forces did not ask its members from Southern Sudan who are members in the joint units to move to the North in order to have their dues settled.

As evidence, he said when Southern Sudanese attached to the joint contingent along side the armed forces in Wau were asked to move towards Abyei in implementation of Kadugli Agreement signed between the ministry of interior and chiefs of staff of the two armies by reabsorbing two joint battalions from Wau at Abyei, they refused to move.

On the other hand, Major General Al Nawo said the armed forces has agreed that they could stay in Wau until their dues are settled and that it has appointed elements from Kadugli joint forces to replace them.

He stressed that the JDB will investigate the incident to know the facts and the results of the investigation will be made available to the media and press.

JDB holds the Nuer responsible for Malakal mutiny

Al-Rai Al-Aam 6/2/11 – SPLM leader Atem Garang has called for investigation and accountability of the militias which attacked SAF JIUs. He told the newspaper yesterday that southerners have no vendetta against the northerners to attack them, pointing out that issues between the North and the South have been addressed peacefully.

Death toll in Upper Nile clashes rises to 28, spreads to other areas

Sudan Tribune.com 5/2/11 - At least 28 people have been confirmed dead following extension of fighting which broke out on February 3 between soldiers allied to the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Malakal town, capital of the Upper Nile state. The fighting is believed to have spread to other counties outside Malakal on Saturday.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune in an interview in the regional capital of Juba, Phillip Aguer Panyang, spokesman of the southern army (SPLA) said that the disagreement surfaced about one week ago over the fate of tanks, which, according to the directive from the Khartoum controlled (SAF) that the tanks should be transferred to northern Sudan.

"But, some southerners in the group wanted the tanks to remain in south. In accordance with the Joint Defense Board agreement to which the SPLA is a party, it was agreed that SAF units will

take all their equipment to Northern Sudan and Southerners who wish to come to south Sudan and join the SPLA will bring their equipment to the South with them. This was the decision of the leadership of the two armies", Aguer explained.

Aguer said he did not have clear and accurate information involving the casualties because SPLA is not involved in the clashes, although they have attempted to mediate and stop the clashes. However, he said he has reports that at least 20 people had died.

"I do not have accurate information because the SPLA is not the party to these skirmishes. It is the internal rebellion within the Sudan Armed Forces".

"The SPLA components in the Joint Integrated Units are only helping in separation of the two groups to stop escalation of the clash. The information we get is from the third party. So, it is through the third party that we collected information that this morning the number of dead in Malakal has risen to 20".

"This could change at any moment because it has escalated and spread to other counties. Investigations are continuing and additional information would definitely give more [deaths]. The number of wounded have also increased beyond the figures we received yesterday and this morning but I cannot give you now because the information about them is not clear. What I know is that many are wounded because both sides were firing mortars and heavy machine guns," said Aguer.

"The situation is getting out of hand because it is very complicated issue because there are Sudan Armed Forces recruited and deployed most of the soldiers drawn from militia groups as part of the joint integrated Units that alongside the north during the civil war".

The military spokesman warned that the fight could happen anywhere where the Sudan Armed Forces had opted to deploy militia as their half of joint integrated units rather than more disciplined regular forces. "This fighting could happen anywhere where SAF has accepted deployment of militia groups as members of joint integrated units. I am saying so because they are not real soldiers to understand the arrangement", said Aguer.

He said the group also extended their fighting to Melut, Maban, Nasir and Paloch counties in Upper Nile State. "I have received reports that the same groups have extended the fighting to the counties of Melut, Maban, Nasir and Paloch in Renk County," said Aguer.

Presidency directs committee to expedite border demarcation

Al-Raed 6/2/11 – The Presidency has sent a number of directives to the Border Demarcation Committee asking it to expedite implementation of what remained of its task during the coming period.

Committee Chair Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadiq told SMC that the Presidency has urged the committee to complete its work postponed due to absence of southerners members who were busy with referendum but he did not elaborate about the Presidency directives. He said the absence of southern members was a tactic intended to delay the work of the committee, adding "they delay the committee's work on the ground of referendum and until now they have not returned". He added that the southern members' lack of trust in the committee has delayed the demarcation process.

SPLM politburo to meet on 16 February

Al-Ahdath 6/2/11 – The SPLM Political Bureau is to hold a meeting on 16 February chaired by GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

According to SPLM SG Pagan Amum, the meeting will focus on a range of issues including status of the SPLM in the North and the South in the light of the referendum result as well as the remaining part of the interim period. He described the meeting as crucial, indicating that the SPLM would continue as one body until July, adding that the forthcoming period would witness reorganization within the movement.

South Sudan mulls new capital after independence

Reuters 6/2/11 - South Sudanese leaders said today they were considering building a new capital after their expected independence as the current hub Juba lacked infrastructure and space for new business.

"A committee has been formed to look into a more suitable place for a capital ... There are so many things that Juba doesn't have now in terms of services," said Anne Itto, a senior member of the south's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Itto added the committee would also consider expanding Juba.

South Sudan is expected to declare independence from the north on July 9 after its voters overwhelmingly chose to secede in a referendum in January.

Juba, which sits on the banks of the White Nile in the south's Central Equatoria state, has seen a dramatic but chaotic expansion since a 2005 peace deal ended decades of north/south civil war.

After the accord -- which promised the referendum -- Juba became the seat of the south's semi-autonomous government, the headquarters of a mushrooming United Nations presence and built on its status as the territory's commercial hub.

SPLM moving 4,000 fighters toward Abyei

Al-Intibaha 6/2/11 – the newspaper's informed sources revealed yesterday that the SPLA is moving 4,000 soldiers north of 1956 borders toward Abyei.

Dinka sources described the step as preemptive measure by the SPLA so that it is able to enter Mujlad and then proceed to Al-Fula.

Deng Alor urges NCP to implement Abyei Protocol

The Citizen 6/2/11 – GoSS Minister of International Cooperation Deng Alor has denied any SPLM avarice in Abyei area, saying SPLM just wants the NCP to implement the Abyei Protocol.

In an exclusive interview to the newspaper, Alor reiterated the SPLM's opinion that Abyei belongs to the South, indicating the Messeriya pastoralists' (right) in grazing and moving up and down the area, saying "no one will ask them". He noted that the SPLM has no problems with the NCP apart from the need to implement the Protocol but he declined to respond to the Misseriya accusation that the SPLM refrained from executing the outcome of the Kadugli

agreement to replace the south police with the joint forces.

Joint command deploys additional forces in Abyei

Sudan Tribune.com 5/2/11 -The joint military command forces representing the Sudan's southern and northern armies said Saturday they deployed what they described as "well trained" and "professional" armed personnel to the contested oil-producing region of Abyei to restore security and peace and stability in the region.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune in Juba on Saturday one day after visiting Abyei, Major General Marial Cinduong Yol, the overall Joint Integrated Units commander for the SPLA said he was in Abyei to witness the arrival and integration of additional Joint Integrated Units (JIU's) in Abyei.

Yol, a senior military officer said main purpose for deploying additional forces to the region is to reinforce and strengthen security requirements in the area and provide adequate security.

"I went [to Abyei] to witness the arrival and integration of the additional joint integrated units there. There are now two additional battalions in the area. They will add up to the previous battalion to make three battalions in the area", said General Yol.

"The deployment of these additional forces is to reinforce and strengthen security requirements in Abyei so that there should be no insecurity concerns. Their presence means provision of adequate security in the area. It also means protection of lives and properties of the citizens", said Yol.

The top military officer said the deployment of the additional forces a respond to official request made by the two parties after an agreement to deploy Joint Integrated Units (JIU's) along flash point areas along Abyei's borders.

"Apart from being deployed as reinforcement, they would replace police forces at the border lines. This is a respond to the official request made by the two parties to replace police forces with joint integrated units at the border lines as agreed during talks held in Kadugli", he said.

Yol denied allegations that his forces lack professionalism. "The two battalions are selections of Special Forces who are mostly well trained personnel. They are professional soldiers. We actually deployed them to Abyei for this purpose. Some of them were in Wau where they exhibited professionalism during the period of their deployment," explained Yol.

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