

6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- Abyei civil society organizations hand over petition to UN, IGAD and EU (**Al-Ahram**)
- SPLA announces victory over forces of Galuak Gai in Unity state (**Miraya FM**)
- US bars PetroChina from using its new refinery to process Sudanese oil (**ST**)
- Fair and transparent oil deal needed to prevent return to north-south war (**ST**)
- Donors' lack of honouring pledges minimizes peace dividends – FM (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Sudan says not concerned with absence of Western envoys from El-Fasher meeting (**ST**)

## Pre-referendum Watch

- NCP, SPLM and UN reach agreement on referendum (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Referendum commission members to be sworn in this week (**Al-Khartoum**)

**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

---

## **Abyei civil society organizations hand over petition to UN, IGAD and EU**

**Al-Ahram** 6/7/10 – Abyei civil society organizations yesterday staged a demonstration to push for the formation of Abyei referendum commission. The demonstrators handed over a petition to UNMIS, Abyei Administration, representatives of IGAD, EU, national government, national Assembly and the South Sudan State Assembly demanding speedy formation of the Abyei referendum commission, demarcation of the Area's boundaries in accordance with the PCA Award and compensation for the victims of incidents of May 2008.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 5/7/10 reported that tensions at the North -South border town of Abyei are high, as police forces at Tajlei, in the extreme north of the area on Monday confirmed exchanging gunfire along the volatile frontline with armed groups associated with members of Messeriya tribe in the northern state of Southern Kordofan in central Sudan.

Two police soldiers have been confirmed killed and four wounded in a critical condition. The attack which reportedly occurred at 7 a.m. has also sent away hundreds of residents fleeing the area hence leaving it a no-go area turning it into a military operation zone.

No casualties were confirmed on the other side. However, Idris Dudu, a member of the Messeriya Tribe in Khartoum said he has heard of the plan but cannot confirm.

"I cannot confirm because what I have heard may be different. I suppose some members were planning going to where their cattle were stolen. I thought that was Unity state because that was where I have heard some cattle were stolen. I did not know anything about Abyei," he said declining to give further comments.

The armed confrontation at the borderline just one day before the expected arrival of the former South African president, Thabo Mbeki, to the area for situational visit and talks with local leaders in Abyei.

Tentatively scheduled to visit the area on Tuesday, as member of the CPA Assessment and Evaluation Committee, Mbeki who chairs the AU Panel on Sudan, is expected to hold talks with local council, chief administrator Deng Arop Kuol, his deputy Rahma Abdurrahman, chiefs and representatives of youth and women groups.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune, Deng confirmed the clash, describing it as a politically motivated act to provoke return of war between the two political parties.

"I confirmed to you that there was another fresh attack in the area at Tajlei this morning, just in the early hours before I arrived back to Abyei," said Deng Arop Kuol, chief administrator of the area.

"I just returned from Khartoum and Juba where I attended and participated in a series of political meetings held between the two parties on Abyei referendum commission,

[only] to find that a village hosting police post at Tajlei, has again been attacked," he said.

"This is a politically motivated act with intention to provoke return to war between the two parties, because it was just three weeks ago that the similar attack occurred in Maker Abior at the same line, leaving one dead and wounded another. Today they again attacked and killed two more police personnel and wounded four. It was at seven o'clock this morning when they attacked the area," he said.

Meanwhile UN officials in the area told *Sudan Tribune* that the clash coincided with peaceful demonstration in the town on Monday.

"The clash between the two armed groups today coincided with a demonstration in the town calling on presidency to immediately form Abyei referendum commission," said UN official who declined to be named.

"The whole town came to our camp chanting anti-government slogans and calling for immediate formation of Abyei referendum commission and handed over to our head of office a copy of memo outlining some of their grievances," he added, describing it as a huge crowd.

"It was huge. Very big crowd indeed because it looked like the whole Abyei town at the gate of our camp, all senior government officials were there. It seemed they must have come from somewhere purposely for this because I could see all including children and elderly people being led by their walking sticks," he described.

### **SPLA announces victory over forces of Galuak Gai in Unity state**

**Miraya FM** 5/7/10 - The SPLA has announced its military victory over the forces of Galuak Gai in Unity state, saying it has eliminated the rebellion. SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol said that Gai was injured in the battle and is currently receiving treatment in Khartoum. Kuol further reiterated accusations that the central government is supporting the rebellion.

### **US bars PetroChina from using its new refinery to process Sudanese oil**

**Sudan Tribune website** 5/7/10 - PetroChina, the largest oil and gas firm in China, has scrapped plans to process Sudanese crude oil at its new refinery in south China under US pressure, sources told *Reuters*.

"There is a freeze on Sudanese crude oil into the new plant, as it is under the US-listed PetroChina, not the parent company CNPC which produces crude in Sudan," said an industry official with direct knowledge of the issue.

Qinzhou refinery was due to become operational next August and was to mainly refine low-cost Sudan crude oil via ship and PetroChina has revamped the port to accommodate 300,000 deadweight ton...

### **Fair and transparent oil deal needed to prevent return to north-south war**

**Sudan Tribune website** 6/7/10 - An agreement over future oil revenues will be critical

in preventing a return to war between north and south Sudan after a referendum on southern independence due to take place in January 2011, according to a campaign group.

A transparent and fair arrangement for sharing and monitoring Sudan's oil should be a top priority for negotiators meeting in Ethiopia this week said Global Witness.

"The precariousness of the situation cannot be overstated. Half of the Sudanese government's domestic revenue comes from oil, yet most of the oil fields are in the south which could be an independent country next year. Both sides appear to be preparing for the worst, with armies stationed on the border. There is a clear and present need for the negotiators to address what will happen to the oil, whatever the result of the referendum," said Global Witness campaigner Rosie Sharpe.

"There is such a lot of money at stake and such a lot of mistrust between the two parties, any new oil deal has to have checks and balances in it in order to ensure that it is strong and transparent enough to encourage peace and cooperation. If the deal goes wrong it is difficult to see it ending in anything but a fight for control of the oil fields," said Sharpe...

### **Donors' lack of honouring pledges minimizes peace dividends – FM**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** 6/7/10 – Foreign Minister Ali Karti said that the lack of honouring by the European donors of their pledges towards the peace process has minimized peace dividends, and that negatively affected the chances to consolidate unity. Karti, who made the remarks yesterday at meeting with the EU Ambassador, called on the EU to honour its pledges towards the peace process and development in the Sudan.

### **Sudan says not concerned with absence of Western envoys from El-Fasher meeting**

**Sudan Tribune website** 5/7/10 - The Sudanese government has downplayed the significance of absence by the special envoys of US, UK and France from the meeting held in North Darfur capital city of El-Fasher to assess the political, humanitarian and security situation.

Sudanese media said that the three envoys notified the organizers of their non-participation but no reason was given.

The Sudanese official in charge of the Darfur dossier Ghazi Salah Al-Deen told reporters that he does not wish to comment on their absence saying "it is up to them" noting that they were the ones who agreed to the time and place of the meeting.

He further said that he has no knowledge of "administrative and logistical" difficulties preventing their attendance.

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

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted Arab League ambassador to Sudan Salah

Halima as saying that there was agreement among all participants that the Doha forum for negotiations should be the only one amid reports that Libya wants to move the talks to Tripoli in a position similar to that of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) which boycotted the negotiations.

The spokesperson for JEM Ahmed Hussein criticized today's meeting saying that Khartoum is using it as a "public relations cover for continuing violence against Darfur civilians".

Hussein also slammed Gambari and called on the UN Secretary General to evaluate his performance on the job saying that he has failed to fulfill his mandate or expose government attacks on civilians. The JEM official said that Gambari is instead focusing on competing with the joint mediator Dijibril Bassole to take ownership of the political process.

The Darfur rebel leader Abdel Wahid Al-Nur condemned the summit saying it is held at the headquarters where Khartoum planned genocide against the people of Darfur. "The meetings will contribute nothing to alleviate the sufferings of Darfuris," he said.

## Pre-referendum Watch

### **NCP, SPLM and UN reach agreement on referendum**

**Al-Sahafa** 6/7/10 – the NCP, SPLM and UN have agreed on the form of cooperation and support to be provided by the latter to the southern Sudan's referendum including the deployment of sufficient UN troops to assist in the conduct of the referendum in all the southern Counties and voting centres in the North.

SPLM Secretary-General and GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum told reporters yesterday that the two partners reached an agreement with the UN with regard to additional task the UN is needed to undertake to support the conduct of a free, fair and timely referendum. He said the parties agreed that the UN would build a strong partnership with the referendum commission as well as providing technical and advisory support. Amum said the agreement also includes the establishment by the UN of a committee to monitor the referendum in collaboration with bodies desirous of monitoring the process, adding that the UN will also provide support and training to police in the South and the North to secure the process.

According to Amum, the two partners have agreed to send a joint memo to the UN to request the support, adding the two partners will also meet today to discuss other CPA pending benchmarks particularly the Abyei issue.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** 6/7/10, the two partners have urged the UN to provide advisory, technical and logistic support to the referendum process at all stages. NCP leading figure Lt. Gen. Salah Abdullah (Gosh) stressed the need for a free and fair referendum, adding that UN should play an effective role in the referendum to avoid recurrence of elections' mistakes.

## **Referendum commission members to be sworn in this week**

**Al-Khartoum** 6/7/10 – Informed sources said the southern Sudan referendum commission members will take oath of office before President Al-Bashir by the end of the current week. According to the sources, the commission will begin its work immediately after its members are sworn in.