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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

CPA parties decide to disengage JIUs in Abyei

Al-Sahafa 8/5/11 – The Abyei Administration announced an agreement to separate JIUs in the area, saying the SAF HQ would be shifted to Umulkhair north of Abyei and SPLA HQ to Alna'm west of the territory.

Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop has disclosed the withdrawal of the Joint Integrated Police Units (JIPUs) and national monitors from north of the territory, considering it a prelude to war in the area. He described the disengagement of the forces as total collapse of the Kadugli agreement, saying "now we do not have JIUs", adding that these forces have never carried out their task of protection. He said the JIPUs have withdrawn northward including the officers, pointing out that the UN and the Abyei Administration tried to convince them not to do so but did not succeed. He said the withdrawal is part of a wider SAF's plan to attack Abyei, Unity state, North and West Bahr el Ghazal states and north Malakal.

However, SAF spokesperson Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled was quick to deny the claim saying, "the Chief Administrator's charge is a trial balloon and an attempt to cover up recent incidents", adding that the SPLA has already occupied Abyei by sending over 3,000 armed elements.

Abyei Chief Administrator calls for effective international intervention

Sudan Tribune website 6/5/11 - Abyei chief administrator, Deng Arop Kuol, on Thursday called for immediate and effective international intervention to resolve the political impasse hindering citizens in the oil producing region from deciding whether they will join South Sudan and or remain in the North.

Kuol said the Abyei dispute needs aggressive and focused international attention to break the deadlock. "The talks over Abyei are never shedding light. The National Congress Party is deliberately refusing to implement the Abyei protocol. It is time for [an] international committee to pay focused and aggressive attention," said an emotional chief administrator, Deng Arop Kuol in an interview with Sudan Tribune in Abyei town. He accused the Khartoum-based of using force to attempt to annex the region to the north. "The government in Khartoum is no longer interested in seeking peace to settle the issue of Abyei because it feels all attempts and proposals never comes out in their favor so they are resorting to the use of force," he said.

The senior official from the area made the statement after forces belonging to the Sudan Armed Forces controlled by Khartoum based government clashed with local police forces in the oil-producing border region, killing 14 and wounding several others on both sides on Sunday.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan said it was unclear who started the fighting late on Sunday while officials from north and south traded accusation with SPLM blaming the government of forces of intention to destabilize security of the area.

"A convoy with weapons mounted on vehicles belonging to members of Sudan Armed Forces component of the Joint Integrated Unit attempted to enter the town, on Sunday evening. They had no approval of the administration and above of all, the United Nations was not aware. This

was a clear attempt to use the force to take the area. They were intending to attack the area and take control," Kuol said.

He added that shooting broke out after a convoy commanded by a major in the Sudan Armed Forces refused to cooperate with local police by insisting on entering without approval.

"They started shooting when police refused and stopped the convoy [...] this was a plan to invade," Kuol said...

SAF denies troop deployment in Abyei apart from JIUs

Al-Raed 8/5/11 – SAF spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled has dismissed claims by Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop to the effect that Khartoum blocked roads leading to Abyei in an attempt to force residents of the Area to disown PCA ruling. Khaled told *Miraya FM* that SAF did not deploy soldiers in the area apart from its soldiers within JIUs.

GoSS committed to pact on Abyei region-UN

PANA, 07/05/11 - Mr. Haile Menkerios, the UN SRSG for Sudan and head of UNMIS, has said that the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan were committed to implementing the two recent agreements aimed at restoring calm to the disputed region of Abyei. A UN statement stated that Menkerios made the remarks after meeting with the President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, in Juba. It was quoted as saying that "the two parties have committed that the Kadugli and Abyei Agreements shall be carried out with the facilitation and participation of the UN". He also said: "UNMIS will also support the containment and temporary security measures while a solution is being sought. We have agreed here to immediately move on it". The statement also said that Menkerios was accompanied to the meeting, which was held on Thursday, by US Special Envoy to Sudan, Princeton Lyman, and former Burundian President Pierre Buyoya of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan. It noted that, "before travelling to Juba, Menkerios met in Khartoum with senior officials of the Government of Sudan, who also expressed their readiness to implement the agreements".

SG Ban warns Sudan rivals over oil region tensions

AFP 6/5/11 - UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned Friday that new deadly clashes in the disputed oil region of Abyei risk undermining relations between the rival north and south Sudan governments as they head for permanent separation.

Scores have been killed in recent clashes in the frontier region where both sides have staged a significant military buildup and Ban demanded that they "refrain from provoking each other," his spokesman said.

"The secretary general is deeply concerned by the continued tension in the Abyei area and underscores that the military stand-off is unacceptable," said UN spokesman Martin Nesirky. Ban urged the north and south "to immediately implement the short-term containment measures" agreed in January and March to reduce tensions. The rival governments agreed then to keep their troops apart and to hold talks to settle Abyei's future.

"The resumption and conclusion of the negotiations on Abyei must now be a matter of priority," Ban said, according to his spokesman.

Ban called on Bashir's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the south "to refrain from any unilateral declarations regarding the ownership of the Abyei area as it jeopardizes the search for a peaceful resolution," his spokesman said.

"The parties must refrain from provoking each other or engaging in any military confrontation in Abyei as this could result in further loss of life and significantly affect the future relationship between North and South."

US & AU express concern over situation in Sudan's Abyei

Sudan Tribune website 5/5/11 - The United States and the African Union (AU) today voiced concern over the growing tensions in the oil-rich region of Abyei that lies on the borders of North and South Sudan.

"The United States remains deeply concerned about the alarming situation in the Abyei region of Sudan. U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan Ambassador Princeton Lyman met jointly with African Union High-Level Implementation Panel Member President Pierre Buyoya as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan Haile Menkerios and Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir this morning on this issue," U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters on Thursday.

"Recent actions by both parties to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement run counter to President Bashir and President Kiir's agreement to resolve the situation peacefully through negotiation and with the assistance of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel. The introduction of armed forces into Abyei by both sides violates the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and recently resulted in a violent clash in which Southern forces apparently killed at least 11 members of the Northern Joint Integrated Unit," he added.

The U.S. urged both sides to withdraw their troops from the contested area in line with previous accords signed.

"We welcome the May 5th agreement by the National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement to immediately implement the Kadugli Agreements and to withdraw illegal troops from Abyei, and urge both sides to act expeditiously to carry out this agreement," the U.S. state department spokesperson said.

The African Union (AU) in a separate statement echoed the U.S. sentiments and said that the violence occurred as a result of failing to implement Kadugli accord stressing that any "unauthorized force" should be withdrawn.

A statement by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) said that its chief Haile Menkerios got pledges from North and South to implement the agreements signed. He met with South Sudan president Salva Kiir in Juba today.

"The two parties have committed that the Kadugli and Abyei Agreements shall be carried out with the facilitation and participation of the UN. UNMIS will also support the containment and temporary security measures while a solution is being sought. We have agreed here to immediately move on it," Menkerios said after the meeting.

AL urges Sudan's NCP, SPLM to resolve Abyei issue by legal means

Xinhua 8/5/11 - The Arab League (AL) on Saturday urged Sudan government partners, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), to contain the Abyei issue and resort to the legal references in this respect, reported official SUNA news agency.

"We call on the partners to the CPA, the NCP and the SPLM, to contain the Abyei issue and resort to the legal references," SUNA quoted AL envoy to Sudan Salah Halima as saying.

He said the AL was committed to a policy standing on supporting both north and south Sudan, the report said.

He added that the AL vision stood on the principle that the relationship between the north and the south should be based on fraternity, common interests, mutual security and non-intervention in the internal affairs of each other and in a manner that enhances security and stability.

Halima expressed hope that the tensions in Abyei would be temporary and be resolved soon...

South Sudan cabinet passes transitional constitution

Sudan Tribune website 5/5/11 - South Sudan's Council of Ministers has passed the long awaited four-year transitional constitution, giving more powers to the President of the would-be Republic of South Sudan, from July 9.

The technical constitutional review committee has been working to amend and merge the interim constitutions of Southern Sudan and Sudan national constitution, 2005, for the last two months.

The controversial draft constitution was boycotted by a number of opposition political parties in South Sudan, who accused the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of renegeing on the spirit of consensus with them in order to arrive at the final draft.

Other political parties sat through the whole process despite their reservations in the draft. The document was presented to the cabinet on Wednesday by the chairman of the technical committee drafting the transitional constitution, John Luk Jok, minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development.

The cabinet passed the document almost in its entire form as presented by the technical committee with very few amendments. The minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Madut Biar, who acts as official spokesman of the government, told the press after the meeting that the issue of land has been resolved in the constitution...

GoSS parliament convenes extraordinary sitting to discuss transitional constitution

Sudan Tribune website 7/5/11 - South Sudan's Legislative Assembly (SSLA), has called for an extraordinary sitting to deliberate on the transitional constitution proposed to come into force for the region's independence on 9 July.

The transitional constitution was endorsed on Wednesday by the cabinet of the semi-autonomous

region. The cabinet directed the minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok, to immediately table the document before the assembly.

Luk, who also chairs the technical committee that has been drafting the document over the last two months, presented the document to the speaker of the parliament, James Wani Igga, on Friday.

In normal circumstances, the parliament sits only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving Thursday and Friday for the work of specialized committees. Saturday and Sunday are days off for South Sudan legislators.

However, given the urgency of the matter, Igga, called for an extraordinary sitting to take place on Saturday to begin deliberations on the transitional constitution. The document should be ready by July 8 so that the president of South Sudan can sign the document on the proclamation of independence on July 9. The transitional constitution shall also be the basis on which the government shall function after July 9, including the new swearing in of the current president, Salva Kiir Mayardit.

South Sudan to redeem old pound after split

Reuters 6/5/11 - Southern Sudan's central bank said it would buy back all pounds circulating in the region once a new currency is issued after independence in July as it is trying to halt a currency slide in the oil-rich south.

Since southerners voted in January to split from the north in a referendum the pound has weakened steadily against the dollar on the black market in the south on worries it will be without value after independence on July 9.

Analysts warn if a new currency is issued without coordination with the north on the timing and exchange rate, the pound will continue to weaken in the south with inflationary pressures rising.

Elijah Malok, governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan, said the pound would be redeemed in the south once it was replaced by the new currency, which will be called the South Sudan Pound.

"We will change their pounds, they will take them over and we will give them the (new) South Sudan Pound, which is the same value so (southerners) don't have to be worried," Malok told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday.

"We will do it in the south

Jonglei says 20,000 at risk after WFP suspend activities over insecurity

Sudan Tribune website 6/5/11 - Officials from South Sudan's state of Jonglei say that the UN's decision to halt food supplies to insecure counties has left more the 20,000 people at risk.

The UN's World Food Program (WFP) stopped activities in Jonglei and other parts of South Sudan due to attacks on their staff. On 19 April a WFP staff member was killed in an ambush in Duk county of Jonglei state triggering the decision.

Speaking to the Sudan Tribune by phone from Bor, Jonglei state minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mayen Ngor Atem said that more over 20,000 people who returned from northern

Sudan this year, are left vulnerable to hunger and plans to extend farming in the area has also been affected.

"Those [returnees] who returned to Jonglei state [from the north] are over 27,000 [...] and these are the people who need food at this critical period of cultivation," said Jonglei state minister Mayen Ngor adding that the exact population lacking food in Jonglei is higher than he estimates.

"If they [returnees] are not provided with food at this time, then there will be a problem and there will be more food supplies needed next year," he added...

Security situation in the South stable – SPLA

Ajras Al-Hurriya 8/5/11 – SPLA spokesperson Philip Aquer said security situation in the South is stable, denying any clashes between the SPLA and armed militias but reiterated charges that Khartoum is still supporting militias and defectors to destabilize the region. "Khartoum continues to support defectors", he said adding "It is strange that NCP leaders talk about recognizing the southern state and at the same time back militias".

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

Release of results of elections in Southern Kordofan postponed to Wednesday

Al-Sahafa 8/5/11 – The Higher Elections Committee in Southern Kordofan state delayed the release of elections in the area until 11 May instead of today, citing slowness of the vote count as the reason.

Committee Chair Adam Abideen said the opening of ballot boxes and vote count requires at least 72 hours, adding that some boxes have not reached from western and eastern constituencies yet. He said preliminary results would be released on 11 May and final results would be announced by the Commission in Khartoum on 15 May.

According to *Akhbar Al-Youm* 8/5/11, preliminary results indicate that NCP candidate Ahmed Haroun is in the lead.

Akhir Lahza 8/5/11 reports that elections results began trickling to UN centre in Kadugli since yesterday and the Higher Elections Committee Chair Adam Abideen expects the result to be released late tonight.

SPLM & NCP claim win in South Kordofan gubernatorial elections

Sudan Tribune website 7/5/11 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) both preempted the announcement of election results in South Kordofan saying their candidates for governor have won.

The state's incumbent governor Ahmed Haroun, representing the NCP in control of the north, is running against his deputy Abdel-Aziz Al-Hilu who is a leading figure in the SPLM which is the dominant party in the South.

Yesterday the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera news channel said that figures it obtained show a lead for the SPLM candidate by 14,000 votes.

But the deputy NCP chairman in Southern Kordofan Mohi Al-Toum Hamed said in press statements that any accurate count will show a big win for the Northern based party. He alleged that the SPLM wants to prepare the ground for not recognizing the outcome of the polls.

An SPLM senior figure however dismissed the NCP claims.

"I can not speculate on the results which are being counted. I cannot tell you who would win these elections but, it is clear from preliminary results that comrade Abdel-Aziz Adam Al-Hilu will eventually lead the results", said James Wani Igga, speaker of South Sudan Legislative Assembly, in an interview with Sudan Tribune from Juba.

Igga said he is self-assured that his comrade will win if elections commission concludes the counting without succumbing to military and political pressures.

But the top election official in Southern Kordofan Adam Abdeen told Sudan Tribune that the process of matching votes to registered voters is proceeding slowly and said there are proposals of forming additional committees to speed up the process.

The authorities in southern Kordofan urged the residents to accept the results irrespective of the winner and announced a set of measures include a ban on using weapons and staffing rallies during the count and up to announcing results.

Other Headlines

President Al-Bashir leaves for Djibouti to take part in inauguration

Dailies 7/5/11 – President Al-Bashir left Saturday for Djibouti to take part in the inauguration of its re-elected president.

The President is accompanied by a ministerial delegation to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Omer Guelleh who won a third term in elections last month...

Sudanese government refuses to extend dialogue with JEM for a week

Al-Sahafa 8/5/11 – Government's delegation to talks with Darfur rebels in Doha has turned down a request to extend deadline for dialogue with the JEM until mid May, saying the rebels lack seriousness and willingness to achieve peace.

The mediation is expected to set a new timetable for talks prior to the submission of a final peace document.

Authorities free 9 of 12 detainees of Turabi-led Popular Congress Party

Al-Sudani 8/5/11 – Authorities yesterday released 9 of 12 detainees from the Popular Congress Party led by Hassan Al-Turabi. An anonymous source described the release as a positive step but stressed the need to free the remaining detainees and to lift restrictions on freedoms and democratic transformation. The source mentioned Al-Naji Abdullah as one of the prominent detainees released.

NCP restructures party institutions, Salah Gosh removed from party post

Al-Akhabar 8/5/11 – NCP secretary for organizations Qutbi Al-Mahdi has disclosed wide changes in the ruling party institutions, saying Gen. Salah Gosh is relieved from the chairmanship of the Party's secretariat of sectors but denied that the changes are linked to alleged differences within the ruling party.

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