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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

UN/Agencies

New joint mediator hopes to end Darfur crisis

(Sudan Tribune) The newly appointed joint UN and AU mediator for Darfur said on Wednesday he hoped to "strike a balance" in resolving the crisis in western Sudan.

"Of course, we hope to strike a balance. As one often says in an exercise of this kind, no one can win everything, but neither should anyone have to accept losing everything," Djibril Bassole told the state-run Burkina Faso daily Sidwaya the day after his nomination.

Bassole, who is Burkina Faso's foreign minister, said in the same interview that he would first make contact with the various players in the crisis "to better understand" them and the situation and "identify the difficulties".

He said his mission would only be complete once a total peace agreement had been reached.

The joint mediator will be based in the capital of North Darfur, El-Fasher, the headquarters of UNAMID, and will conduct his duties on a full-time basis.

Grounding Russian planes include SAF and UN

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Director of Khartoum Airport Yousuf Ibrahim said they had begun carrying out the Presidential order for grounding all Russian planes (Antonov and Ilyushin) operated for cargo and passengers and the ban would also include SAF and UN planes. Speaking to Al-Rai Al-Aam he said no aircraft would be exempted.

UN organizes workshop on CPA

(Akhir Lahza) UNMIS organized a workshop on CPA, signed by NCP and SPLM, for Sudanese journalists.

Chief of UNMIS Special Campaigns Unit Mr. Jordan Dakamseh, addressing the participants, has commended the efforts exerted by NCP and SPLM that brought an end to war between the north and south. About 50 journalists took part in the workshop and were awarded certificates.

GoNU

Abyei committee to resume its meeting in Juba today

(Sudan Vision) NCP and SPLM Joint Committee on Abyei will resume its meeting in Juba today to prepare for presenting its final report to the Presidency by the end of next week. The Committee spokesperson Al Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed stated that the NCP members will travel to Juba to complete negotiating the remaining points of Abyei roadmap agreed upon by the two parties which include formation of the interim administration and completion of arbitration agreement.

Abyei enquiry commission investigates politicians and military men

(Al-Sahafa) The committee set up to investigate recent incidents in Abyei met with SAF, SPLA and UN troops for investigation. The committee also investigated NCP and SPLM politicians in Khartoum. The committee comprises officers from JDB and UNMIS, divided in two groups (A and B). Group (A) will investigate UN, SAF, SPLA and JIUs in Abyei and Group (B) will investigate leaders of political parties and civil society.

Paryang accuses SAF of infringing Abyei agreement

(Miraya FM) The SPLA spokesperson, Major General Peter Paryang assured that the SPLA has completed withdrawing its forces from Abyei, and is now moving southwards as agreed by the NCP and SPLM. He accused SAF by saying that it did not withdraw from Abyei as required by the recent Abyei Road Map agreement. Major General Peter Paryang said that SAF is now two days behind the deadline with the "SAF Battalion Thirty One" still inside Abyei town.

For its part, the SAF denied that it broke the road map deal, as per Colonel Sawarmi Khalid Saad, office manager of the spokesperson; he added in an interview with Miraya FM that there is coordination between the two parties to complete the withdrawal process.

UN agency begins health relief efforts in disputed Sudanese town of Abyei

(UN News Centre) The United Nations health agency has started preparations for the expected return of tens of thousands of displaced people to their homes in the disputed central Sudanese town of Abyei. WHO said in a media statement that it is focusing on restoring basic health services for the returnees and controlling the health risks for both the returnees and the people still displaced after deadly fighting erupted in May.

US will not interfere in ICC Darfur proceedings: Official

(Sudan Tribune) The US administration has no intention of pressing the International Criminal Court (ICC) to suspend a new case that will be initiated this month against unidentified Darfur war crimes suspects, a senior US official said today. "I want to emphasize this; the United States does not want to impinge in any way on the ICC prosecutor's discretion to go forward" Williamson said.

The US envoy repeated his disappointment with the UN over failure to deploy 3,600 more UN-African Union (UN) troops by end of June as requested by him in March. "We are disappointed the UN has not been able to achieve those modest goals by the date that has been set" Williamson said. "The progress in the first six months is absolutely unacceptable...The people of Darfur deserve better" he added.

On the other hand, US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez told Al-Sudani newspaper yesterday that resumption of dialogue with Sudan depends on resolution of Darfur crisis, implementation of CPA particularly Abyei.

Sudan accepts Congolese mediation to end conflict with Chad

(Sudan Tribune) Sudan accepts the Congolese mediation to end conflict with Chad, the declaration was made during a meeting between the visiting President Denis Sassou Nguesso and President Omer al-Bashir in Khartoum.

However Ambassador Khedr Haroun Director of the Department of bilateral regional relations at the foreign ministry said that Nguesso didn't elaborate the details of his mediation.

This announcement comes at a time where President Idris Deby told Radio France Internationale (RFI) that he had refused to meet al-Bashir on the sideline of the African summit in Egypt. The Burkina Faso president Blaise

Compaore had tried to gather the two presidents in Charam El Sheikh.

"I don't need to meet (Sudanese President) Omar Hassan al-Bashir ... I'm for peace in this region, but I have no need to meet someone who has never kept his commitments," he said.

Sudan broke off diplomatic relations with Chad following an attack by the Justice and equality Movement on May 10 against the Sudanese government in Khartoum. Sudan accused Chad of providing the Darfur rebel group with money and logistical support to carry the raid.

Since 2004 the neighbouring Chad and Sudan trade accusations of supporting rebel groups against each other. Chadian factor in the five years conflict is designed by international responsible as new complication for the international efforts to end Darfur conflict.

President Denis Sassou Nguesso who was a supporter of the Chadian president in the past criticized his friend Deby after the May 10 coup. Western reports say he seems more convinced by the blames made by his father in law president Omar Bongo of Gabon against President Deby.

The Congo Brazzaville is one of the five members of the contact group charged with the follow up of the implementation of Dakar Agreement to end the conflict between the two countries.

Sudanese and Congolese president agreed also to set up a resident diplomatic representation in the two countries. They also consented to reactivate trade and economic cooperation between them, starting by inviting businessmen from both countries to meet in Khartoum to discuss how to upgrade the economic and trade relations.

National Assembly to approve elections act at historic sitting next Monday

(SUNA) The National Assembly, headed by its Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, would approve finally in a historic sitting next Monday the Election Act for the year 2008.

Suspension of voluntary repatriation to southern Sudan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs announced the suspension of voluntary returns of IDPs to southern Sudan by land due to the onset of heavy rains and insecurity on Abyei road. Returns by the river will continue, it said.

Ugandan army ready to pull out of south Sudan if Kiir demands – official

(Sudan Tribune) Ugandan government said it would withdraw troops deployed in southern Sudan since 2002 to hunt the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, if they receive formal demand from southern Sudan president.

Vice President of southern Sudan government told lawmakers at Juba parliament that Ugandan army is responsible of recent attacks in the border areas with Uganda. He further ordered the Ugandan troops who hunting the LRA rebels to leave the country.

Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Henry Okello Oryem, said Uganda will not disobey Sudan's request to leave her territory if they feel the UPDF is longer welcome, the Daily Monitor reported today.

"If we get official communication from President Salva Kiir who is the Commander-In-Chief, we are ready to leave. We are not going to disobey their request."

Oryem said in reaction to a statement by the South Sudan Vice-President, Riek Machar that UPDF should leave their territory to avoid "mistakes" as the soldiers hunt LRA rebels.

Machar said the decision was taken after the UPDF killed a South Sudanese businessman during anti-LRA operation this month. Since 2002, Sudan allowed the UPDF to pursue LRA fighters up to a limited area extending to a "red line", about 100 km north of the Uganda-Sudan border.

But the Sudanese ambassador, Sirajuddin Hamid Yousuf, said the protocol authorizing the UPDF to stay in Sudan expired in 2006 and it has since not been renewed.

"May be it is the same reason (expiry of protocol) that South Sudan is calling for the withdrawal of the Ugandan army," Yousuf said.

But Oryem said what is important is not the written agreement but the spirit between the two countries, which President Yoweri Museveni and South Sudan leader Salva Kiir enjoy.

Since 2002, Sudan allowed Ugandan forces up to 100km into southern Sudan to pursue LRA forces. The limit is near the town of Juba in southern Sudan.

Darfur

Chad's Deby rejects peace meeting with Sudan leader

(Reuters) Chadian President Idriss Deby said on Wednesday he would not meet his Sudanese counterpart for peace talks and ruled out negotiations with rebel opponents unless they first abandoned their links with Sudan. Deby's comments to Radio France International at an African Union summit in Egypt appeared to dim prospects for a negotiated end to the conflict between Chad and Sudan over their frontier running along the violence-plagued Sudanese region of Darfur.

SLM (Abdul Wahid) says ready to negotiate

(Ray Al-Shaab) Abdul Wahid-led SLM declared its readiness to negotiate to end Darfur crisis after a new UN-AU mediator is named. This was revealed to Miraya FM by SLM spokesperson Yahia Bolad

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