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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

## Main News

### *Security arrangements in the Blue Nile on the brink of collapse*

**(Al-Rai Al-Aam/Akhbar Al Yom)** The SPLA in the Blue Nile State brought heavy weapons into the area via a border town. The weapons were: 23 tanks, 20 land cruiser vehicles, 130 howitzers and many other anti-aircraft guns. International observers in the area suspended their work to protest SPLA refusal for inspection of those weapons. According to sources, the weapons were brought to the area without the knowledge of the security authorities. The weapons were accompanied by 500 SPLA elements led by a Colonel and Lt. Col. who have received advanced training on heavy weapons and war planes.

The ceasefire monitoring committee will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss the SPLA motives for bringing weapons and military to the Southern Blue Nile State. A source told SMC that a neighbouring country, in coordination with Israel, was behind the weapons that reached the area and the motive might be to strike the Roseiris Dam. According to the source SPLA attempted to hide the weapons in Samri area when UNMIS demanded explanation.

On the other hand, SAF spokesperson Brig. Osman Al-Aqbash said SAF and UNMIS monitored on Thursday that SPLA was moving 10 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers, 4 rockets, heavy artillery and a company of special force that crossed the town of Kurmuk. He said on Friday 20 land cruiser vehicles were also brought to the "Khor Al-Bodi", 9 kms from Kurmuk. UNMIS observers have tried to verify but they were ill-treated, detained and their cameras were taken away but were released.

The chief editor of Akhbar Al Yom telephoned Deputy Chairman of SPLM Malik Aqar who confirmed the arrival of SPLA's military equipment and vehicles to Khor Bodi for repairs, accompanied by a small force and UN was aware about that.

### *Partners of GoNU agree on Abyei*

**(Miraya FM)** SPLM and NCP agreed to form the Abyei administration. Speaking after the meeting

of the joint executive political meeting between the SPLM and the NCP in Juba, the Southern Sudan Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Luka Biong, told Miraya FM that the Sudan Armed Forces affirmed that it would withdraw from Abyei immediately after the meeting.

### *Sudan's former foes begin Abyei withdrawal*

**(Reuters)** - Sudan's north and south armies have begun to withdraw their forces from the disputed oil-rich region of Abyei, officials said on Friday, after missing an end-June deadline agreed to by the former foes.

"We began today to withdraw parts of our force," said the northern army spokesman of the Joint Defence Board (JDB) Abdel Rahman Mohamedain. The JDB is the body created by the accord which ensures cooperation from both northern and southern armies.

The southern army, known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said on Thursday they had almost completed their withdrawal.

"In less than three days we will finish the redeployment," the southern army's head of operations Pieng Deng Kuol said.

Mohamedain said the delay in withdrawing the northern forces was because they were waiting for police to deploy and for a temporary administration to take power before they would fully leave, according to an agreement between the north-south forces.

An Abyei administration has yet to be agreed on. The SPLA said there were no conditions on their withdrawal.

Kuol warned that the failure of northern forces to leave the area was causing disgruntlement amongst his troops.

The southern and northern armies both agreed to redeploy from the area by July 1 after fighting broke out between the two forces in Abyei town in May killing at least 90 people and displacing 50,000 people.

Southern army officials said they had missed the deadline because they lacked transport for heavy equipment. South Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar said that the northern army was stalling.

Abyei, on the border between north and south with important oil wells and pastures has long been a source of contention.

Sudan's north-south conflict was fought over differences in ideology, ethnicity, religion and access to Sudan's oil that lies mostly in the south. It is separate from the Darfur conflict.

### ***SPLA leader questions neutrality of Egyptian troops in southern Kordofan***

**(Al-Watan July 3)** SPLA National Liberation Council member Mr. Ammar Nasir Nimeiri said UNMIS Egyptian troops working with UNMIS in Southern Kordofan were not neutral in monitoring implementation of the protocol in the area. He made the statement at a press conference he addressed at SPLM office in Mogran, in Khartoum.

## ***UN/Agencies***

### ***UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur visits Wau***

**(Miraya FM/AI –Rai Al Aam)** The UN Human Rights rapporteur Simar Samar said concerned about human rights situations in Sudan particularly in Abyei. Samar paid a two-day visit to Wau town of the western Bahr el Ghazal state to assess the human rights situation in the area.

Speaking to Miraya FM, Samar said that the government should have protected the civilians in Abyei area from being looted and killed. She has held series of meetings with the UN Mission in Sudan, human rights teams and the community based organizations working in Wau. Samar is expected to depart Wau for Juba on Sunday.

## ***GoNU***

### ***President Bashir to address nation today***

**(Al-Rai Al-Aam)** President of the Republic Omer Bashir will address the nation today from Omdurman on the occasion of the 19th Anniversary celebrations of the National Salvation Revolution.

### ***Sudan starts trial of a top rebel involved in Khartoum attack***

**(AFP)** A top member of the Darfur rebel group that staged an unprecedented attack on Khartoum

appeared in court Thursday for the first time as Sudan stepped up trials of suspects arrested after the strike. Sudanese security service distributed a photo of Abdel Aziz Ashr, brother-in-law of JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim, following his arrest. On 3 July he appeared in North Khartoum court along with seven other suspects for the start of a trial that could see him hanged if found guilty. The suspects, all in civilian clothes, arrived at the heavily guarded courtroom that was also open to the press and lawyers, an AFP reporter said. Sudan's attorney general Salah Abu Zeid read out the indictment, accusing the suspects under criminal law and anti-terrorism legislation of orchestrating a terrorist attack on the capital. Defence lawyer Satie Mohamed al-Haj told AFP after the hearing that the formation of the special court before which his clients had appeared was unconstitutional and did not guarantee their legal rights.

### ***Chad: Sudan urges to take causes of deals failure into account (Sudan Tribune)***

**(Sudan Tribune)** – Sudanese president said today any deal to mend relations with the neighboring Chad should take in account the reasons behind failure of the previous agreements. In a press conference held with the visiting Congolese President, Omer al-Bashir stressed that any agreement with Chad must result in a cessation of hostilities and non interference in the internal affairs of Sudan, particularly with the rebel groups in Darfur. He further said that it is important to take into consideration the previous agreements and why they have failed.

The Sudanese authorities consider the ethnic group of president Deby, the Zaggawa, responsible of the failure of the signed agreements. They accuse the Zaggawa Kobé of supporting the Justice and Equality Movement.

However, al-Bashir expressed appreciation for the mediation of President Denis Sassou Nguesso. He said confident in his aptitude to end the tension between the two countries.

### ***Government and UN Sign in Geneva Agreement to Support Implementation of DDR***

**(SUNA)** - The government and the United Nations signed in Geneva a document of support to the programmes of disarmament, demobilization and re-integration in Sudan. The document was signed

by the State Minister at the Ministry of International Cooperation, Prof. Al-Yas Neyamilil, for Sudan government and the Deputy Special envoy of the UN Secretary General for Sudan, Ms. Ameera Haq. The document was also signed by Dr. Barnaba Benjamin for the Government of South Sudan, in the presence of the ambassador and Official of Peace Programmes at the Japanese Foreign Ministry as witness.

### ***Foreign Ministry Stresses Importance of International Community Cooperation with New UN and African Union Mediator***

Khartoum, July 4 (SUNA)- The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Al-Al-Saddiq, has stressed the necessity of the international community's cooperation and support toward guaranteeing success of the mission of the new UN and African Union chief mediator for Darfur. He asserted in a statement to SUNA the importance of the cooperation of the international community with the new chief mediator of the UN and the African Union for Darfur, Djibril Bassole, for reaching the aspired goal.

## ***GoSS***

### ***Uganda rebel leader Kony wants to sign the peace agreement – Envoy***

(Sudan Tribune) The United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas, Joachim Chissano, on Saturday in Juba, announced that the LRA leader, Joseph Kony contacted him on phone affirming his commitment to sign the Final Peace Agreement (FPA) with the Uganda government.

The Envoy issued the statement after conducting a joint meeting with the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Chief Mediator of the Uganda peace talks, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, African Union ambassadors, European Union representatives and the LRA peace talks delegation led by the re-appointed chief negotiator, Dr. David Nyekorach Matsanga.

### ***South Sudan seeks observer status in international and regional bodies***

(Sudan Tribune) - South Sudan's government applied for observer status of several international bodies, including the United Nations and regional organizations, to boost trade ties. This status would allow southern Sudan to attend meetings

and monitor what's happening in these bodies and benefit from some of the privileges, but would not give them full membership and the right to participate in the decision making process.

This was revealed by South Sudan's Minister of Regional Cooperation Benjamin Marial to Sudan Radio service.

### ***South Sudan President Kiir orders Uganda army to withdraw***

(Sudan Tribune) – The Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny said President Salva Kiir had already ordered for withdrawal of the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) from Southern Sudan territory.

In briefing Friday's Council of Ministers meeting, Machar said Kiir had already instructed the SPLA Chief of Staff, Lt. General Oyai Deng Ajak to communicate the order to his Ugandan army counter-part in Kampala. He noted that the decision was reached June 7, 2008 in the Southern Sudan Security Committee chaired by President Salva Kiir.

Machar said he was misquoted by Uganda press that wrongly connected his statement in the Southern Sudan parliament on Monday with the decision of the government to expel the Ugandan army from the territory of Southern Sudan. He explained that he was just informing the Parliament about the government's decision to expel the UPDF and not him in particular ordering the UPDF to withdraw on that day. Machar further explained that the decision to expel the UPDF was even reached in his absence while he was still in Khartoum on official mission. He described the government of Uganda as the "best friend" of Southern Sudan in the region.

Machar however pointed out that there was no operational protocol to keep the UPDF in Southern Sudan, saying they came to Sudan under an agreement with the Khartoum government which had expired in 2006. Machar added that the SPLA is now an organized army that should take charge of security in the territory of Southern Sudan.

Reacting to the material evidences found near the dead person by the CHMT verification team that implicated the UPDF of the killing in Pageri Payam on June 14, Machar said the Uganda Consul General in Juba, Busho Ndinyenka, confirmed that the materials found belong to UPDF. Machar said Busho explained to him that the materials just got lost from the UPDF in pursuit of the LRA in the area.

The Vice President further explained that when the UPDF members of the Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team (CHMT) reportedly tried to deny the material evidences during the verification exercise the other members from five African countries including the SPLA members confronted the UPDF members with the evidences. CHMT membership comprises of military officers from a number of African countries that include Republic of South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Southern Sudan and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The CHMT was established in accordance with the agreement signed by the Uganda government and the LRA to monitor any violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed by the two parties in Juba two years ago on August 26, 2006.

The Team is led by a SPLA senior military officer, Major General Wilson Deng Kuoirot.

The CHMT earlier carried out investigations into the deadly attack on Nabanga Payam in Western Equatoria state in which the report submitted to the Chief Mediator accused the LRA of that incident.

In the verification report submitted to office of the Chief Mediator, the CHMT observed that evidences of materials found at the scene where the body of the killed person was found implicate the UPDF masquerading as LRA.

A document was also found near the dead person with names of suspected UPDF soldiers indicating "Section II, Platoon I, 'A' Coy", with full names and military ranks including army numbers. The document's source seems to have been obtained from a health center where the soldiers might have conducted a medical checkup, probably in Uganda. The CHMT Leader recommends that a further investigation be carried out to identify the culprits and apprehend them.

The Government of Southern Sudan's Council of Ministers on Friday expressed the necessity to enlighten the press on the decision of the government to expel the UPDF from Southern Sudan, saying it was unfortunate that the press criticized the Vice President as if the decision was reached by him alone.

### ***South Sudan ruling party assigns Dutch firm for Abyei tribunal***

**(Sudan Tribune)** The southern Sudan ruling party

announced today that it had chosen a Dutch legal firm to represent its interests in The Hague arbitration tribunal which is designated to settle difference over Abyei.

In a press release issued yesterday in Juba, the Sudan people's Liberation Movement appointed the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) to represent it in the International Court of Arbitration that is designated to settle the dispute over who controls the oil-rich district.

## ***Darfur***

### ***JEM decries unfair accusations of child soldiers***

**(Sudan Tribune)** The Justice and equality Movement (JEM) once again denied accusation by a British human rights organization that the group recruits child soldiers. The group minimized the report saying it is unfair and partial.

JEM was singled out in a recent report on child soldier recruitment published by Waging Peace which said it has footage shot in refugee camps in eastern Chad to support its claim that JEM was losing support among Darfuri refugees because it accepted into its ranks boys who had been abducted and trafficked from the camps.

Abdullahi El-Tom, the head of JEM training and strategic planning told the Irish Times that Waging Peace did not speak to JEM troops on the ground during their research. "I don't think the investigation was fair or balanced," he added.

Last year the UN estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 child soldiers had been forcibly recruited in Chad, where some 250,000 Darfuri refugees languish in camps. Dr El-Tom said the report was "totally unfounded and false". "We don't have a shortage of volunteers, so we do not need to use any children."

Recruits were mostly between nine and 15, according to the report. Waging Peace executive director Louise Roland-Gosselin said the group had not received any communication from JEM since issuing the report. "While Waging Peace's recent report highlighted the recruitment and trafficking of child soldiers on the Chad-Sudan border by a number of parties including the JEM, Chadian rebel groups, Sudanese Janjaweed militias and Chadian authorities, the strongest evidence we collected related to the forced recruitment of child soldiers by the JEM," she said.