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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

UN/Agencies

UN troops in Abyei harassing IDPs, instigating them not to return

(Al-Intibaha) Abyei deputy administrator Ayoum Matep has called upon the authorities in the centre to intervene to curb UNMIS 'Zambian troops' harassment of IDPs returning to the area. He said the 'Zambian troops' in the area were instigating IDPs not to return, alleging they would be ethnically liquidated by the Arabs. In a statement to the newspaper he has accused the 'Zambian contingent' of working to advance a pro-SPLA hidden political agenda in the area.

He has criticized SPLA's linking of IDPs' return with completion of withdrawal of brigade 31, saying return of IDPs has nothing to do with brigade 31 withdrawal.

About 460 IDPs returned to Abyei yesterday, complained of poor health conditions, lack of food and shelter besides being harassed by 'Zambian' and SPLA troops while returning to the area.

GoNU

SPLA refuses to allow investigation of weapons in the Blue Nile State

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) A source told the newspaper that SPLA in the Blue Nile State denied observers access to the areas of Al-Bodi and Al-Samri to investigate the weapons brought by SPLA. According to the source, the SPLA, by denying access, intends to push for UNMIS exit from the area. The source added that the number of SPLA elements trained on heavy weapons exceed 900.

Defence Minister: We will not keep silent on SPLA excesses in the Blue Nile

(Al-Intibaha) Sudanese Defence Minister, General Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussain has considered the developments in the Blue Nile State as violation of the CPA and an unacceptable act on the part of the SPLA and SAF would never keep silent.

He told Al-Intibaha and Akhir Lahza newspapers that the Security Arrangements Protocol does not authorize SPLA to deploy in the north. What had

taken place was a new deployment and we would deal with it decisively, the Defence Minister said. He added that intensive discussions were continuing to address the situation particularly the protest by UNMIS observers because of being denied access to Kurmuk and other areas to monitor and verify.

Spokesman of JDB confirms Abyei withdrawal

(Miraya FM) The Spokesman of the Joint Defense Board, Maj. Gen Bior Ajang, confirmed that the SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces have already started to withdraw from Abyei. Speaking to Miraya FM, he said that 50 soldiers of the Sudan Armed Forces have moved out of the area while the SPLA has withdrawn a force that amounts to a brigade.

He pointed out that the deployment of the Joint Integrated Units in Abyei is going as planned.

Taha and Machar to sign today Abyei arbitration agreement

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Vice president Ali Osman Mohammed Taha and Vice President of government of southern Sudan Riak Mashar will sign today in Khartoum Abyei arbitration deal.

Abyei special committee spokesman Al Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed told (smc) the deal would be submitted in The Huge international arbitration authority in a week time following signatory then arbitration process starts.

In the same development SPLM delegation headed by Mashar would arrive today in Khartoum for meeting with the joint executive political committee to discuss roadmap for peace in Abyei.

Sudan's president reiterates reaching peaceful solution to Darfur issue

(Xinhua) -- Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir on Sunday reiterated his commitment to reach a peaceful solution to the Darfur issue.

This came in a televised address al-Bashir made to the Sudanese people on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution which was led by al-Bashir and his National Congress Party.

Al-Bashir reiterated his government's commitment to the peace agreements it signed respectively with rebels in southern, eastern and western

Sudan, and to working for completing the Western Salvation Highway and expansion of the scope of health and medical services.

He called for the authorities concerned to maintain the state's dignity, preventing any security violation, secure the routes of delivery of relief to the displaced and affected citizens and boosting the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The president referred to the ongoing efforts to conduct an extensive dialogue with all the political parties, saying the civil society organizations in Darfur is toward reaching a lasting and comprehensive solution of Darfur issue.

He also affirmed the commitment to holding free, fair and observed elections according to schedule.

He said Sudan's foreign policy was based on the principles of positive interaction, good neighborliness, nonintervention in the affairs of others and guaranteeing the common interests and values.

refinery, doubling its capacity to 100,000 bpd.

Oil from the Melud Basin, known as "Dar Blend," is refined at the Port Sudan Refinery, which has a capacity of 21,700 bpd.

In 2005, the Sudanese government agreed with Malaysian Petronas to build a new refinery at Port Sudan.

Sudan's crude oil output is predicted to peak in 2008, although current revenue levels may be sustained for a decade or more.

Sudan Government reiterated readiness to negotiate with DPA non-signatories

(Sudan Vision) Sudan Government reiterated its readiness to negotiate peace with Abuja Agreement Non-signatories provided that they come up with united political agenda.

State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani Al Wasila briefed the visiting Dutch parliamentary delegation on the efforts exerted to resolve the Darfur crisis pointing to the obstacles that hinder reaching a peaceful solution such as the divisions within the rebel movements rejecting Abuja agreement and differences in agenda.

Pagan Amum mocks NCP for fearing democracy

(Sudan Tribune) The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum yesterday accused the ruling NCP of undermining the transition from totalitarianism to multi-party democracy by restricting freedom of expression through continued censorship of press.

Several Sudanese leading newspapers, including

the SPLM's Ajas Al-Hurriya (Bells of Freedom) and the independent Sudan Tribune have been denied rights to printing in recent months by the security, citing negative criticism against the NCP led government.

US Charge d'Affaires warns of devil in Abyei details

(Al-Sahafa) The US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez showed optimism over Abyei crisis, expecting a breakthrough within the forthcoming days. However, he has warned of the devil in details, calling upon parties to the dispute to translated Abyei roadmap into reality.

Mr. Fernandez held two meetings yesterday with Presidential Adviser Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail and Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Al Samani Al Wasila.

In press statements following the meetings, Mr. Fernandez urged the Government and SPLM to implement the agreement, form an interim administration in the area and pull out troops except JIUs.

With regard to Darfur, he said the humanitarian situation was serious, warning of famine in the area. He has called upon movements and armed militias to halt attack on humanitarian convoys.

Legislation and Justice Committee deliberates election bill

(Miraya FM) The Legislation and Justice Committee in the National Assembly continues discussions on the election bill in the third reading before submitting its report to the Assembly today.

The National Assembly is expected to pass the final wording of the election bill for the year 2008 in Monday's session.

The meeting of the National Democratic Alliance bloc and the Darfur and the East Member of Parliaments besides the Laws of Democratic Transformation Committee held yesterday, concluded to submitting a memo on the bill to the Legislation Committee before the Assembly's session for endorsing the bill.

GoSS

Uganda rejects responsibility of South Sudan atrocities

(Sudan Tribune) — Ugandan officials on Sunday rejected the findings of a report by international observers on the implication of the army in attacks against civilians in southern Sudan.

The southern Sudan Vice-president Riek Machar on June 30 disclosed to southern Sudan parliament the conclusions of a verification exercise carried out by the Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team (CHMT) stating the Ugandan soldiers killed a Sudanese in Western Equatoria after abducting him and looting food stuff and other household goods on June 14.

Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa dismissed the report saying "It cannot be our army ... Our army is disciplined."

He further said that the South is an agitated place and other armed men could be responsible for this attack.

"Southern Sudan remains a restive area with so many small armed groups operating there. It is difficult to distinguish who are the Ugandan rebels and who are not." Kutesa said.

Ugandan army Commander Aronda Nyakairima also rejected the allegations that have soured relations between Uganda and South Sudan authorities.

"We have been hearing these allegations through the press, but they are all false. What I know, what we suspect is that there could be a problem of identity between our forces and other armed groups operating there," he added.

WHY THEY WANT US

The Ugandan security minister told The New Vision he is still seeking to understand why southern Sudan official ask for the withdrawal of their troops. He said Juba had to discuss the issue before taking such decision.

"I don't know what prompted the South Sudan leadership to take such a decision," said Amamba Mbabazi. "Even if there was anything, we can discuss it and sort it out amicably." He added.

Mbabazi noted that they had not yet received an official communication to withdraw.

"It is a political decision, something which President Salva Kiir should take up with President Museveni," he said.

South Sudan and Ethiopia agree on joint development projects

(Sudan Tribune) - The semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan has reached a number of bilateral cooperation agreements with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and to jointly implement development projects in their respective adjacent states and regions.

In his briefing to the Council of Ministers meeting

on Friday, Dr. Barnaba Marial, Minister of Regional Cooperation in Southern Sudan, said the two sisterly governments have agreed to cooperate on a wide range of joint projects on social, economic, capacity building and security issues.

On social issues, Dr. Marial noted with appreciation that Southern Sudan and Ethiopia have strong cultural and tribal links, especially between some of their neighbouring states and added that these relations should be utilized and cemented to promote peaceful neighbourhood between these related tribes on both sides of the border.

He explained to the Council that Gambella Region in Ethiopia is predominantly inhabited by Eastern Jikany Nuer and Anyuak tribes as the majority communities and who also constitute the political leadership of that region.

He further explained that these Ethiopian Nuer and Anyuak tribes of Gambella region also share the border with the same Sudanese Nuer and Anyuak tribes of Upper Nile and Jonglei states.

Dr. Marial led a 15-person delegation of the Government of Southern Sudan to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, in June which included Lt. Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk, representing Jonglei state, Maj. Gen. Gatluak Deng, representing Upper Nile state, Honourable Paul Napwon Yonai, representing Eastern Equatoria state, Mr. Arop Deng, GoSS Head of Mission in Ethiopia, Mr. Stephen Ogut, Security Advisor and Mr. Doboal Wuol, Director for Bilateral Relations, among others.

On the Ethiopian side he said their 16-person delegation was led by Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which also included Mr. James Deng Chuol, representing Gambella Region, Mr. Shifraw Shigute, representing Southern Nations and Nationalities Region, Dr. Tekeda Alemu, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Koang Tut, Deputy Chief Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Chan Gatkuoth Yoam, Security and Intelligent Advisor, among others.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT SECTOR

On roads and transport sector, Dr. Marial said the two parties agreed to promote road, river and air transport between their neighbouring states. The two parties have agreed to construct a network of roads connecting the three Southern Sudan states of Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria with the adjacent Ethiopian Regional States of

Gambella, Southern Nations and Nationalities, and Beni Shangul Gumez.

The Regional Cooperation Minister pointed out that the Government of Southern Sudan and its signing States shall have the responsibility of constructing and completing the roads segments that connect to the existing and ongoing Ethiopian road projects that meet at the border.

These will include Pagak-Maiwut-Longechuk-Malakal Road and Longechuk-Dajo Road in Upper Nile state, while the Ethiopian authority will upgrade the construction of Gambella-Jekow Road.

In Jonglei state, it is agreed that the Ethiopian government begins the construction of Gambella-Nyinyang-Akobo Road, while in Eastern Equatoria state both Governments will begin construction of Mizan-Dima-Buma-Narus-Juba Road.

The parties also agreed to reinforce the River Transport and introduce regulatory arrangements for safety issues, customs and elicit trafficking and that modern Steam-boats shall be the vessels of transport from Malakal-Jekow-Gambella and Gambella-Akobo-Pibor Post.

They have also agreed in principle to add Malakal to the current Ethiopian Airlines route of Addis Ababa-Juba after conducting further consultations on the issue in the near future.

Share of Government of Southern Sudan of oil revenues for Last May amounts to 207.06 million dollars (SUNA)

(SUNA) - The total oil revenues for last May reached 514.51 million dollars of which 307.45 million dollars is the share of the national government whereas the share of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is 207.06 million dollars- 185.82 million dollars of which was from exports revenues and 21.24 million dollars from the crude oil used by local refineries. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Dr. Al-Tayeb Abu-Ghanayah, pointed out in the meeting of the Joint Committee for Supervision, Account and Distribution of the Net Oil Revenues Sunday that the total of direct transfers to the Government of Southern Sudan amounted to 214.17 million dollars with a surplus of 7.11 million dollars of GoSS share for the month of May, 2008. He pointed out that the surplus will be allocated for settlement of previous arrears, adding that the share of the oil-producing states in the said month is 10.5 million dollars of which 4 million dollars is the share of the Unity State and Upper Nile State 4.95 million dollars. South

Kordofan State share reached 2.4 million dollars. Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning at GoSS praised the level of transparency, accuracy and performance distinction in the work of the joint committee, expressing satisfaction over the rise of surpluses in remittances to the Government of Southern Sudan and the oil producing states.

Darfur

Darfur peace partner lashes out at Sudan ruling party

(Sudan Tribune) Sudan's senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi accused Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) of working to divide his movement through bribery.

Some press reports in Khartoum have indicated that some figures within the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) headed by Minnawi, are trying to remove him from office.

But Minnawi downplayed these attempts describing those behind it as "spoilers".

"They don't have any support within the SLA. They are pushed by the NCP" Minnawi told Sudan Tribune by satellite phone from Darfur.

"The NCP is giving them money but I am the chairman with full control over my group militarily and politically" he added.

The ex-rebel figure also threatened to take unspecified measure against those individuals trying to oust him.

Minnawi, who disappeared for almost two months, said he is in the town of Imbro in North Darfur and denied traveling to Chad. His long disappearance has prompted speculations that he will suspend participation in the government.

Sudan presidential adviser criticized Minnawi in press reports this week saying that he "must utilize the dispute resolution mechanisms outlined in the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)".

But Minnawi dismissed Ismail's statements and said the government is not serious about the DPA.

"Those mechanisms were there before I left Khartoum to Darfur. Why was he [Ismail] silent all this time and decided to speak now? I don't think they want to implement it" he said.

"I spent two years in Khartoum and the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund (DRDF) is empty. I think it is high time to pay. The people of Darfur cannot survive the much needed fund" he

added.

Minnawi also said he is fully supportive of the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation into Darfur war crimes.

"We are supporting the ICC and also we would like to help them go after those who committed war crimes" he said.

Sudan intends to run elections without Darfur – rebel official

(Sudan Tribune) — Sudanese government works to run the general elections in the country and intends to overcome the resolution of Darfur crisis at this stage, a senior rebel said. He further blamed the international community for supporting such choice.

Ahmed Tugud, the chief negotiator of the Justice and Equality Movement, told Sudan Tribune that Sudanese government is seeking to hold the general elections next year without the participation of Darfur political forces.

He warned that ignoring the settlement of Darfur conflict and engaging the democratic transition would have serious repercussions in the future; "it could also lead to a long war and threaten the unity of the Sudan." He said.

Ahmed Tugud also blamed the collusion of the international community and particularly the United States with Khartoum.

The senior rebel official warned that the focus on the security aspect without addressing the political concerns is a wrong orientation towards the settlement of Darfur crisis.

"If the security is restored in Darfur, the government will definitely not respond to the demands of Darfuri and will not resolve their plight." Ahmed said.

He also said that "under this regime there would not be fair elections and democratic transition would not take place in the country."

Tugud said his movement is poised to begin peace talks with the government at any time. Also he added that JEM exerts efforts to reunite the different rebel groups to establish a large political and military front founded on the principal concerns of Darfur people.