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Highlights

SRSG discusses Abyei's security with local officials

Sudan Tribune website 7/7/09 — SRSG Qazi paid a visit yesterday to the disputed Abyei area where he discussed the security situation with local official and traditional leaders, weeks before the announcement of Abyei Arbitration verdict.

During his talks in Abyei on Tuesday, the UN envoy to Sudan urged the concerned parties to concentrate their effort to reassure the communities in Abyei, adding that UNMIS will continue its efforts to support the local administration and the people of Abyei in bringing a durable peace.

"The Abyei situation is entering a very important phase with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is expected to render its verdict soon, so I used this visit to meet with all concerned", he said.

During his visit on Tuesday, Qazi met with the Chief of Abyei Area Administration, Arop Moyak; the Deputy Administrator, Rahman Abderahman Al-Nour; the Speaker of the Legislative Council, Charles Abyei; Deputy Speaker, Zakaria Atem; senior members of the Area Joint Military Committee (AJMC), Lt. Col. Zafir Omer (Sudan Armed Forces), Colonel. Jacob Wai (Sudan People's Liberation Army) and the commanders of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) as well as Joint Integrated Police Units (JIPUs) respectively, Colonel Mahmoud Abu-Sarah and Colonel Luka Deng.

He also met with the Paramount Dinka Ngok Chief, Amir Kual.

"We have learned from the experience of the past and of what happened last year. Now we are in a better position, given the cooperation of all concerned, to ensure that the people of Abyei are secure", said Qazi at the end of his visit.

"I will ask southerners to vote for unity" – Kiir

Local dailies report FVP Salva Kiir yesterday addressed a rally in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan State. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Mr. Kiir warned of delay of the implementation of the CPA, saying he would urge the people of the South Sudan to vote for unity provided it is attractive. He reassured the northerners that their interests would not be affected should the south votes for secession.

"If we do not address the issue of demarcation of the border, it could be a serious obstacle for upcoming elections," **Al-Ayyam** reports Kiir as saying.

"SPLM is working towards unity" FVP Salva Kiir said yesterday, according to **Sudan Tribune website** 7/7/09. "The Southerners must know that when they proceed to the referendum polls on self determination," he said. He added that the GoNU must "work hard" to make unity attractive "through providing better services and undertaking development projects in the South". "Unity must be achieved through this work," he said.

SUNA described Kiir's visit as "historical" being the first one he makes to a Northern state since taking office in 2005.

The First Vice president stressed that they want the people of Sudan to live in peace and enjoy the fruits of development and services that both parties want it to reach all over the country.

He also ruled out any return to war despite disagreements with NCP over the implementation of the CPA signed in 2005 saying that both sides "tasted the bitterness" of war.

Kiir warned those seeking to sabotage the CPA describing them as people "who never fought with us before and they never tried war and its sufferings".

"We as a movement and NCP are convinced on the uselessness of war and we are working relentlessly to implement the peace agreement" he added.

Luka Biong rules out insecurity in Abyei over arbitration decision

Al-Ayyam reports GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong as saying that he expects PCA to pronounce its verdict on Abyei area on 22 July but ruled out insecurity once the decision is made public.

400 leaders in Abyei to receive FVP

Al-Sahafa reports the nine Dinka Ngok chiefdoms have sent a convoy carrying 400 parliamentary and political leaders to Abyei to take part in the reception of the FVP Salva Kiir who is expected to arrive in Abyei on Thursday. The convoy coordinator Abdullah Biong said the convoy was arranged by the Abyei Administration and it would remain in the area until the arbitration decision is announced.

MPs say census "null and void"

The **Citizen** reports that after weeks of blame and counter blame, the SSLA members yesterday declared the results of the census null and void. The overwhelming rejection comes barely weeks after the NEC went ahead to use this disputed results to demarcate and allocate geographical constituencies in all the states in Sudan.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 7/7/09 reported the Deputy Governor and Minister for Information and communication in Western Equatoria State Col Joseph Ngere Paciko has expressed concern over the final result of the population census which was conducted last year 2008 in WES, saying "the census result exhibited for WES is unrealistic."

In an interview conducted by state journalists with Col. Joseph at his State Secretariat office, he pointed out that, "WES's census result is shocking to everybody," adding that, WES population is more than of Census publication.

Ngere told reporters that, the state office of the population census headquarter in Yambio had informed his office that, "about 40 areas were not covered, as a result the shocking result is a consequence." He further said that the state government is "seriously investigating what is behind that."

Ngere pointed out that, "Although there were issues of logistic problems, most of the areas were not mapped and to make it worst some areas were given different names, otherwise this could have not been the stumbling block, so [we] think that is not the really number of WES"

The deputy governor charges that, "the Northern office is answerable of the formula which concluded WES head count to a surprising figure, accusing the census commission in the North of refusing to show the census data to the international monitors and the Southern Sudan

Commission that means there was blunder and misrepresentation of facts behind the southern Sudan population."

He went further to say the figures of north need to be verified and investigated, otherwise southern will definitely be in a loss and going to be under served national. "If the southerners accept this result then our concern will be less in representation in the National assembly, the issue of border demarcation and the referendum is still beside us."

Elections first step towards CPA implementation – experts

Al-Qowat Al-Musalaha reports Presidential adviser Bona Malwal anticipated that the upcoming elections would face serious challenges and stressed the need for the exercise to take place on schedule to ensure formation of a national government. Malwal accused the GoNU of failure to make unity attractive. Malwal made the remarks at a forum on elections and political issues organized by the Future Studies Centre in collaboration with NEC yesterday. Other participants also stressed the need for the implementation of the CPA provisions especially elections which, they said, should be free, fair and comprehensive.

Al-Intibaha reports some participants have called for delay of elections until the referendum takes place. "There is no reasonable ground for the need to hold elections on schedule. More than a billion of dollars will be wasted. It should be postponed until referendum takes place. The CPA is not Quran," Political Parties Affairs Council deputy chairman Ambassador Hassan Abideen was quoted as saying.

Parliament to hold workshop on elections

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports the National Assembly's Security and Defence Committee is to hold a workshop to discuss ways to secure upcoming elections. The committee chairman Jalal Tawor said delegations would be dispatched to Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Upper Nile State to assess the security situation.

Academicians say chances for secession greater

Al-Sahafa reports academicians and experts are of the view that chances for secession of South Sudan through the upcoming referendum are greater. They based their argument on the existing problems and complications involving the CPA implementation. They also did not rule out that the south might declare independence from within the parliament if differences between the two partners persist. The academicians made their remarks at a roundtable meeting on unity and secession in Khartoum yesterday. According to **Al-Ayyam**, the academicians who were mostly professors of politics called on the two partners to make unity attractive, warning of serious consequences if Southern Sudan secedes.

JDB met, took decisions

Al-Qowat Al-Musalaha reports JDB spokesperson Maj. Gen. Ahmed Sheikh told reporters yesterday that the two sides decided to undertake a joint mission to the Upper Nile state to assess the security situation in order to maintain security in the area. Maj. Gen. Sheikh spoke to journalists after the JDB meeting in Khartoum yesterday.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, the Board called for a mechanism to prevent individuals from posing as SPLA officers to commit irregularities. SPLA chief of staff Gen. James Hoth said there is a criminal network in Khartoum posing as SPLA officers. He calling on authorities to arrest and prosecute them.

Al-Intibaha reports the JDB decided to replace the JIUs which had participated in the recent

incidents in Malakal. It also took a range of other decisions to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

ICC genocide charge sought for Sudan's Bashir

Reuters 7/7/09 - ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said on Tuesday he had lodged an appeal to have Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir charged with genocide in the Darfur conflict.

"So I appealed. The appeal chamber will have to decide now. It will take a few months," Moreno-Ocampo said in Ethiopia, where he was meeting AU officials.

"Today, President Bashir has to be arrested for five counts ... If we win this appeal in some months, President Bashir will also have to answer the charges of genocide".

Moreno-Ocampo said an AU motion last week saying African nations would not cooperate with the ICC's order to arrest or surrender Bashir was not a setback.

"They asked the U.N. Security Council to do something and the Security Council did not answer them," he said of the AU's request for the indictment to be deferred.

"They are not saying President Bashir is innocent. It's not against me. It's a discussion between political organizations ... The AU made a political statement. The decision to implement the warrant is an individual decision of each state."

Moreno-Ocampo said he was convinced Bashir would face justice eventually. "The court can wait for the arrest of President Bashir. It can wait six months or six years even. The victims cannot wait."

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 7/7/09, the prosecutor central argument is that the Rome Statute only requires the judges to affirm that there is "reasonable evidence" that an individual committed a certain crime for the issuance of an arrest warrant.

He suggests that the judges applied a higher threshold of evidentiary proof than required at this stage of the proceedings.

The other two grounds per the prosecutor's application is "whether the majority considered specific extraneous factors in assessing the existence of reasonable grounds to establish genocidal intent" and "whether the Majority failed to consider both separately and collectively specific critical factors in assessing the existence of reasonable grounds to establish genocidal intent".

However, the Pre-Trial Chamber ruled that only the issue of evidentiary threshold in examining the genocide charges put forward by the prosecutor can be presented before the five-member appeals chamber.

Ocampo speaking from the Ethiopian capital yesterday said that the appeals chamber decision could take several months.

The African Union and the International Criminal Court "are working together" to resolve the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region, court prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said yesterday, according to **AFP** 7/7/09.

"Now it is time to stop the crimes. The AU is working (to stop the suffering of people in Darfur), the court is working, and we are working together," Ocampo said.

"Peace and justice are working together in Darfur," insisted the prosecutor, who was behind the ICC arrest warrant against Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir for crimes against civilians in the war-torn, western Darfur region.

Ocampo was speaking on a visit to Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to meet an AU panel which focuses on the crisis in Darfur. The prosecutor added he was in Ethiopia at the invitation of the AU panel.

The International Criminal Court prosecutor argued Tuesday he had enough evidence for a further arrest warrant against Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir for genocide.

He urged the appeals chamber to "correct the error" of omitting the genocide counts against Bashir and to remand the case back to the ICC's pre-trial chamber in The Hague.

Bashir has defied the existing arrest warrant by traveling to nations that are not signatories to the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, before attending last week's AU summit in Libya.

SPLA track-down SPLM-DC supporters

Akhir Lahza reports SPLA intelligence has launched a campaign to track down political and military cadres suspected of loyalty to the Lam Akol-led SPLM-DC. Nine officers have been detained in the area of Falkur, south of Bentiu besides 27 persons in Malakal mostly government employees.

Sudan pinpoints location of abducted aid workers

Reuters 8/8/09 - Sudanese security services have pinpointed the area where armed men are holding two abducted female aid workers in Darfur, but have yet to contact the kidnappers, a government minister today.

Up to eight men seized the workers for Irish aid group GOAL, one Ugandan and one Irish, from their compound in the north Darfur town of Kutum on Friday -- the third kidnapping of foreigners in the remote western region in four months.

"The information that I received this morning is that the area where these people are hiding has been located," Sudan's state minister for humanitarian affairs Abdel Baqi al-Jailani told Reuters. "Still there is no contact, but I am optimistic we will see progress soon."

The minister declined to name the area for fear of jeopardizing negotiations. He added security forces had also asked local Darfuri leaders to try to persuade the abductors to release the captives.

"They will have their own ways and means to track down the exact location," he said. "Priority number one for us is the safety of the two ladies."

No one was immediately available to comment from GOAL, or a team of Irish diplomats and negotiators who have set up bases in Khartoum and El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, to help with efforts to free the women.

JEM orders expulsion of Umma Party from Darfur

Akhir Lahza reports it has obtained a video tape of JEM leader addressing a politburo meeting. During the meeting JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim has revealed his movement's strategy towards the Sudanese political parties particularly SPLM, Umma Party and DUP. Khalil has lambasted the DUP, the Eastern Front and their leaders, saying the DUP leader Al-Mirghani "is not a Sudanese". He has directed JEM politburo to launch a campaign to expel Umma Party from Darfur. Khalil also called pressurizing the SPLM to agree to talk to JEM. The paper has learned that Sudan TV will air the recorded tape today.

Peacekeeper dies in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 7/7/09— UNAMID says one of its peacekeepers, police adviser died yesterday. "A Police Adviser serving with UNAMID died earlier today, following a short illness," the mission said on Tuesday.

The Officer arrived in Darfur on 17 May and was deployed in Tawilla town in North Darfur. The mission did not disclose the identity of the police adviser or his illness.

UN chief pledges to support efforts to release aid workers in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 7/7/09 – UNSG Ban Ki-Moon has pledged to support the ongoing efforts to release two female aid workers detained last week in North Darfur.

Ban made his remarks yesterday in the Irish capital Dublin outside the Government Buildings, following talks with Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen.

"I assure you that we will spare no efforts in providing the necessary support and cooperation — in terms of logistics, in terms of collecting information, in terms of working together with the Sudanese government — to first of all identify and locate and then try to have a safe return of your national."

Unknown gunmen kidnapped Irish Sharon Commins and Ugandan Hilda Kawuki from the compound of the Irish aid group GOAL in Kutum, North Darfur state, on in the evening of Friday July 3.

UN chief aims to complete Darfur deployment by December

Reuters 7/7/09 - The United Nations aims to have its biggest ever peacekeeping force in place in Sudan's Darfur region by end-year, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday.

"My target is that by the end of this year we will have completed the deployment of the mandated number of 26,000 soldiers," Ban told a parliamentary hearing during a visit to Dublin.

"This is by far the largest ever (number of) peacekeepers deployed by the United Nations," Ban added.

"The trouble comes from this continuing political instability and ... tensions between the countries in the region," Ban said. "The tensions between Sudan and Chad are still going on."

INGOs given 72 hours to accept government protection

Al-Ahdath reports Sudan government gave INGOs in Darfur 72 hours to consult with their HQs on the government's intent to provide protection to their compounds. "We have asked the INGOs in the state for more coordination to provide protection to their compounds so that incidents of abduction of their personnel do not recur. We have given them a deadline of 72

hours to consult with their HQs on government protection for their compounds particularly in peripheral areas,” North Darfur governor Osman Kibir said, according to **SMC**.

Meanwhile, **Al-Sahafa** reports INGOs in north Darfur have promised to respond within 24 hours to the state government’s offer to provide them protection.

Saudi airliner skids off runway, airport closed for two hours

Local dailies report a Saudi airliner carrying 310 passengers careened off the runway yesterday while landing in Khartoum, resulting in closure of the airport for two hours.