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Highlights

Qazi's statement "irresponsible" – Abyei Chief Administrator

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Moyak has criticized the statement by SRSG Ashraf Qazi describing the statement as "irresponsible". Abyei Legislative Council Chairman has deplored the timing of the SRSG's statement, saying it would negatively impact on the situation on the ground in the area.

Akhir Lahza reports SPLM leading figures in the Abyei Administration have accused SRSG Qazi of inciting sedition. Arop Moyak told the paper by telephone that Qazi's statement was "baseless and a moral shock for the JIUs and the security organs in the area". He claimed that Qazi had a hidden agenda.

"We will hold the UN responsible for the consequences because of instigating the other party to attack by publishing false and misleading reports to the public opinion," Abyei Legislative Council Chairman Charlie Mayank said.

Meanwhile, SPLM Deputy Chairman and Governor of the Blue Nile State Malik Aqqar told reporters yesterday in Khartoum that the SRSG's statement "was not based on facts", saying some SPLA elements have participated along UNMIS troops in securing FVP Kiir's visit and these troops are considered by Qazi as military buildup. SPLM SG Pagan Amum said the troops meant by Qazi had taken part in securing Kiir's visit and now were heading toward the South, reiterating the SPLM's commitment to the prospective PCA ruling on Abyei.

Khartoum Monitor reports the Abyei Administration has accused the UN of being biased as the SRSG Ashraf Qazi stated that SPLA and South Sudan police were mobilizing around the border area with Abyei. "Qazi's statement was incorrect and baseless and is aimed at tilting the balance in favour of one party," Reng Deng SG of the Abyei Administration said. He added that the UN has shown prejudice in the peace process and that during the May events, the UN had just watched the incidents with tied hands. "UN will be liable for any events that take place after the ruling on the Abyei is announced".

According to **Al-Sahafa**, Reng Reng said the situation on the ground was normal, saying Qazi's statement is a threat to peace efforts. The paper's source said the situation in the area is normal and civilians are going about their business in a normal manner. SPLM spokesperson in Abyei Wuer Majok stated his movement has embarked on sending delegations outside the town to reassure the people. However, Abyei Administration Peace Commission member Adam Abdul Rahman said there were tensions amid the Misseriya caused by leaks that Abyei would be part of the South. A security source told the paper that the situation in the area is calm but said too many rumours were in the air. A number of legislators and officials arrived in Abyei yesterday from Khartoum. Governor of Southern Kordofan, Ahmed Haroun, held a meeting yesterday with Joint Monitoring Mechanism headed by UNMIS Sector Commander for discussion on ways and means to maintain security and calmness in Abyei.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the MFA yesterday summoned SRSG Ashraf Qazi over UNMIS press statement on SPLA deployment around Abyei and denounced the Mission's hastiness in issuing statement that might negatively impact on the relationship between the two partners. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said the meeting with Qazi focused on what was raised by the SRSG over entry of SPLA troops in Abyei area, saying the SRSG was summoned by the MFA not the

SPLA. A source said FM Deng Alor strongly protested to Qazi's statement, saying SPLA mobilized no troops in Abyei. However, SRSG Qazi stick to his stand, saying UN does not make unsubstantiated charges.

According to ***Al-Sahafa***, SRSG Ashraf Qazi was summoned by FM Deng Alor who categorically denied Qazi's statement, saying it could negatively affect the relationship between the two partners and the situation on the ground in the area. Alor said Qazi was hasty in issuing the statement before consulting with the Abyei Administration, the SPLM or the NCP but Qazi insisted on the charges against the SPLM.

Al-Intibaha reports that the All-Misseriya Union Chairman Mohamed Khatir Jumma has rejected the imminent PCA ruling and criticized the government's stand that it would accept the ruling even if it is in favour of the South. He said there was tension in Abyei especially after the entry of the SPLA into the town stressing that the tribe would stay in Abyei and Bahr el Arab. "We will never leave our territory," he added.

Al-Sudani reports cautious calm prevails in Abyei but there is concern over potential violence after the ruling is announced. SPLM official in Abyei Chol Chank Bentol told the paper that the security situation in the area is relatively calm but SRSG Qazi's claims created confusion among civilians in the area.

Sudan Tribune website 19/7/09 reported SPLM denied reports that its forces have deployed in the disputed oil-rich Abyei area in anticipation for the ruling in The Hague for the region's boundaries.

The United Nations Special Representative to Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, alleged that the SPLA forces were confirmed by the UN to have deployed in Abyei area in violation of the roadmap agreement signed in June last year between the former warring parties in Sudan. Qazi said that the SPLA elements are present especially in and around Agok.

However, SPLA Spokesperson Major General Kuol Deim Kuol described the allegations as "baseless" and said the UN envoy in Sudan was a victim of misinformation. "Ashraf is a victim of misinformation by the NCP to cover up the SAF build-up in oil fields in Abyei area," he said.

General Kuol in a press conference he held said in Juba said UNMIS-Abyei were not aware of such allegations.

He explained that the man in charge of the UN peacekeeping forces in Abyei, Brig General Saeed Abdel Hadi, a Zambian national, denied any knowledge of SPLA forces build-up in Abyei.

Kuol further explained that Brig. Gen. Saeed confirmed that SPLA forces did not deploy in Agok as alleged. He added that the UN military officer in charge of Abyei said he did not report to Khartoum anything about the alleged deployment of SPLA forces in Abyei.

The SPLA's spokesperson, who was accompanied by Col. Malaak Ayuen, wondered from where the UN envoy got the alleged information since the officers in charge of UN forces in Abyei were denying the information. "Where did Ashraf Qazi get his information from?" asked Kuol.

"There is no build-up of SPLA forces in Agok. They have never sent any information to Khartoum about SPLA forces build-up," Kuol quoted statements from Brig. Gen. Saeed.

Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, Government of Southern Sudan Head of Mission to the United States, said too from Khartoum that the charge is false and deliberate misinformation. "We dismiss this as not founded and this is a propaganda by the SAF to conceal what they are about to do on the day of the Permanent Court of Arbitration award. GoSS and SPLA are inviting the UN and the international bodies to come to Abyei town and Agok to verify this baseless claim."

The SPLA spokesperson said the aim of the NCP's misinformation was to find a way to delay the announcement of the decision in The Hague as it had earlier proposed.

Both Kuol and Pagan Amum, Secretary-General of the SPLM, said today that the remarks attributed to Mr. Ashraf Qazi, the UN representative in Sudan, on the presence of SPLA forces in Abyei have coincided with the presence of a unit of protection of the First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit. This Force had been in Al-Mujlad, Kadugli and Abyei and was on its way to southern Sudan through the Agok area after the conclusion of the visit of the first Vice President to southern Kordofan.

The bodyguards were accompanying Vice President Kiir during his visit to the area last week and also left with him, they said.

NCP, SPLM resolve differences over census, Abyei and elections

Al-Sahafa reports the NCP and the SPLM have overcome their differences on pending issues by concluded a framework agreement on 12 pending issues. President Al-Bashir and FVP Salva Kiir are expected to sign a matrix on the agreement in August. SPLM Deputy Chairman Malik Aqqar told reporters yesterday that the two partners, in presence of the US envoy Scott Gration, discussed a range of issues including Abyei, census, wealth sharing, the Blue Nile, the Nuba Mountains, Darfur and elections.

Signs of confrontation between SPLA, Shiluk west of Malakal

Al-Intibaha reports there are signs of imminent confrontation between the SPLA and the Shiluk tribe in west Malakal due to the arrival of 200 SPLA troops to the area. The paper's source said the SPLA troops came to the area to verify reports of arms in the hands of the Shiluk reportedly distributed to them by the SPLM-DC. The source said civilians are raising money to support effort to confront the SPLA force. Sources said confrontation could occur within 48 hours if the SPLA force is not withdrawn.

"We will not rule forever" says Al-Bashir, warns of South secession

Sudan Tribune website 18/7/09 — The Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir emphasized the importance of the upcoming general elections for democratic transformation in the country.

Al-Bashir speaking before hundreds of Sudanese supporters at the Conference Center in the Egyptian capital said that the NCP "does not and will not want to stay in power forever,"

"We do not want to stay twenty-five years on top of the people but looking at the future and seeking a peaceful and genuine transfer of power," Al-Bashir said.

"Any party, with or against us, wishing to monitor the elections are more than welcome but on the condition that they respect our values and traditions and beliefs else we will expel them," Al-Bashir said.

He warned that the secession of the South "will open the appetite of separatists in any position in the North and South and Africa whose borders were determined by the colonial powers,"

adding that unity is in the interest of both sides.

"We are keen on unity and many in SPLM are keen on unity but it needs work. Some powers want to keep us occupied by side issues so that we are suddenly faced with referendum and the result is division of Sudan," he said.

"We want voluntary unity and we encourage this because we tried wars and its destruction," he added.

Sudan complains to the SC against Chad

Local dailies report Sudan has lodged a complaint to the Security Council against Chad over raid by its warplanes on 16 July.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 19/7/09, Sudan informed the UN Security Council about the Chadian violations and repeated criminal and unjustified attacks on the Sudanese territory. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Abdelmahmood Abdelhalim, said on Saturday.

Two Chadian warplanes violated the Sudanese territory and launched air attack in the remote area of Um Dukhun in West Darfur near the Chadian border last Thursday.

N'djamena admitted the attack saying its army attacked inside Sudanese soil to stop a column coming from inside its Eastern neighbor.

Chadian information minister Mohamed Hussein said that Sudan sent "mercenaries" in four wheel drive cars to plant landmines inside Chad but that some of them were captured.

Abdelmahmood also accused "some powers" within the Security Council of supporting Chad saying they are "well known".

On the other hand, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Al-Samani al-Wasila, dismissed today Sudan's support to the Chadian rebels saying "Sudan has no interest in undermining Chad's security."

Al-Samani further warned Chad that Sudan would not hold back "if its interests and citizens are harmed."

Also, the Sudanese Media Centre, a pro-government website, reported that Business activities between the two countries halted as a consequence of the attack.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, FVP Salva Kiir has also condemned the Chadian attack on Sudanese territories, describing it as "aggression".

Rodolphe Adada, head of Darfur peacekeeping force, urged the two countries to stop military escalation and to resolve their differences peacefully. "I encourage you to desist from conflict even as diplomatic efforts are being undertaken to bring an end to the ongoing tensions which could exacerbate conditions for Darfur's civilians." He said.

Opposition failed to take to streets – NCP

NCP political Secretary Mohamed Mandour Al-Mahdi told reporters yesterday that the opposition failed to prove that the government is illegitimate and it also failed to take to streets

to protest against the government, *Al-Intibaha* reports. He indicated the futility of continuity of criticism against the government, saying the people are convinced that the opposition has no legal argument.

JEM rebels release 60 Sudanese soldiers

Sudan Tribune website 18/7/09 – JEM released today 60 prisoners of war, as it had pledged two months ago.

"At the request of both the Sudanese authorities and the JEM, to serve as a neutral intermediary in the transfer of 55 armed forces personnel and five police personnel to the Sudanese authorities," said Jordi Raich, head of the ICRC delegation in Sudan.

The detainees freed by the JEM were previously interviewed in private by the ICRC to make sure that they are being handed over of their own free will, the Red Cross further said.

AU-UN Joint Mediator for Darfur peace process has welcomed the release of 60 Sudanese soldiers by the JEM on Friday.