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Highlights

“Abyei will remain peaceful” – President Al-Bashir

Al-Akhbar reports President Al-Bashir has called on the Abyei residents to observe 22 July as the day of “peace, coexistence and reconciliation”. He affirmed his confidence in the residents of Abyei to maintain the area as a scene of peaceful coexistence and unity no matter what the PCA ruling might be. The President said the GoNU would abide by the ruling, saying it has made necessary preparations to ensure safety of civilians and their stability. “I made clear instructions to all the concerned GoNU organs that Wednesday should be the day of peace, coexistence and reconciliation” he said.

“UN threatens to use force in Abyei to protect civilians”

Local dailies report SRSG Ashraf Qazi told a press conference yesterday that UNMIS has in its mandate a Chapter VII with regard to protection of civilians.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, UN has threatened to use Chapter VII of its Charter to protect civilians in Abyei if they are in imminent danger after the PCA ruling is announced. We are mandated to protect civilians who are in imminent danger of physical harm,” Qazi told the press conference yesterday. “We have reinforced our contingent in Abyei town, in Agok and in Diffra, in order to be able to meet these responsibilities towards UN personnel and UN property and civilians in imminent danger when it lies within our capability to assist, protect and escort them to safety. That is Chapter VII obligation within our mandate and we will fulfill that,” he added.

Akhbar Al-Youm reports the SRSG hinted the possibility of UNMIS using Chapter VII to protect civilians if there is an imminent danger after the PCA ruling on Abyei is announced. Asked by the paper to react to Qazi’s statement, FM Deng Alor said, “With regard to your question about my reaction to the Ashraf Qazi’s statement, I would say that Qazi’s statement was a precaution. In the past incidents occurred in the area with major loss in lives and property. His statement is precautionary for possible incidents which is a very remote possibility. We have no objection to the taking of such precautionary measures”.

Al-Sahafa reports the SRSG commended the commitment of the parties to the conflict to abide by the PCA ruling and to maintain security in the area.

Al-Ayyam reports the SRSG said peacekeepers would use force to protect civilians if they are in imminent danger without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Government of Sudan and GoSS. He said SPLA withdrew from Abyei.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 20/7/09 reported the UN peacekeepers present in Sudan’s disputed region of Abyei will use force if necessary to protect civilians, its top official said yesterday.

However he added that reinforcements had been sent to beef up the existing peacekeeping force in the district as a precaution.

The SRSG stressed the importance of the commitment of both sides to peaceful implementation, which “they have reiterated in a number of occasions”.

“SRSG deviates from UN diplomacy, tradition” – Atem Garang

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang has criticized SRSG Qazi statement that SPLA force is deployed around Abyei, reports *Al-Akhbar*. “By these statements, Qazi has deviated from UN diplomacy and tradition,” he said. He added that Qazi could have consulted with the CPC and JDB or even with the SPLM before making such serious statement.

Meanwhile, Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Moyak has threatened to hold accountable those who have provided inaccurate information to the SRSG about presence of SPLA force in Abyei, *Akhir Lahza* reports. He told the paper that Ashraf Qazi would be held responsible for any incident in the area caused by his baseless charges. Moyak also revealed an acute food gap in the area, calling for an urgent intervention by the Presidency to address the situation. He also urged the Presidency to release funds for the Abyei Administration.

Joint mechanism to implement PCA ruling on Abyei

The NCP and the SPLM have agreed to set up a joint mechanism to implement the upcoming PCA ruling on Abyei and reiterated their commitment to the award, urging the Dinka and Misseriya to maintain peace in the area, *Al-Ayyam* reports. The two partners, at the request of the US envoy Scott Gration, held closed meetings with the Dinka and the Misseriya leaderships who will travel today to The Hague to witness the PCA ruling on Abyei. They urged them to maintain security in the area, saying their rights would not be affected by the decision.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 20/7/09, the CPC, in an emergency session yesterday, resolved to undertake a visit to Abyei as soon as possible following the Abyei boundary ruling to be made Wednesday by the PCA in the Hague.

Five resolutions were adopted by the CPC at the recommendation of SRSG Ashraf Qazi:

First, the CPC resolves to adopt a joint statement on the situation in Abyei, "with the key message that the ceasefire must be upheld by the parties under all circumstances."

Second, the CPC resolves "to undertake a joint visit to Abyei as soon as possible following the PCA decision, to reassure the local communities that the CPA parties are committed to peace."

Third, the CPC resolves to address implementation of the arbitral tribunal's forthcoming decision. The resolution cites specific bodies whose respective roles the CPC resolves to clarify, including the CJMC, Abyei Administration, AJMC, SAF, SPLA, JIUs and police.

Fourth, the CPC resolves to closely monitor the situation.

Fifth, the CPC resolves to grant full access to the UN Mission in Sudan "to be able to effectively discharge its mandate in accordance with the Abyei Roadmap and the CPA."

AEC urges respect to rights in Abyei

Al-Ahdath reports AEC Chairman Derek Plumbly in a statement yesterday stressed the need to respect rights of individuals and groups in Abyei no matter what the PCA ruling might be. Plumbly said he was invited by the PCA to attend the announcement of the ruling, adding the AEC would undertake a visit to the area after the PCA ruling to assess the situation on the ground.

SPLM criticizes government refusal to meet travel charges

Al-Khartoum reports the SPLM strongly protested the refusal of the government to bear the cost of travel of its delegation to The Hague to attend the PCA ruling announcement. GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong said the cost of travel of the SPLM delegation to The Hague, 61 members, was met by organizations, US and Norway.

SPLM hints it may boycott elections

Al-Ahdath reports the SPLM has rejected the delimitation of geographical constituencies based on the fifth census results and threatened to boycott elections.

SPLM SG Pagan Amum called on the NEC to find alternatives other than the census results which he described as “fake”. However, Presidential Assistant Ghazi Salah el Din stressed the NCP adherence to the election schedule and expressed confidence in the NEC.

Sudan Tribune website 20/7/09 reported the NEC announced yesterday the delineation of geographical constituencies in 17 Sudanese states.

The electoral body said the demarcation has been completed in the 15 northern Sudan states besides Eastern and Western Equatoria states in southern Sudan.

It also announced that the delimitation of geographical constituencies in the rest of the Southern States would be announced soon.

The Sudan electoral body made the announcement of the completion after a meeting held in its headquarters, headed by the NEC chairman Mr. Abel Alier and the presence of all members of the Commission to discuss the issue of the delimitation of geographical constituencies in the 25 States.

Cabinet to meet in the South

Al-Intibaha reports Cabinet Minister Ali Majok as saying that the Council of Ministers will hold a session in the South during the coming days.

Ban condemns bombings along Chadian-Sudanese border

UN News Centre 20/7/09 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today deplored reported bombings along or near the Chadian-Sudanese border and urged both countries to exercise restraint and improve their frayed bilateral relations amid rising tensions in the region.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said he was disturbed by the report that Chadian aircraft dropped bombs near the village of Umm Dukhum in the Sudanese region of West Darfur last week.

“These events put the lives of Sudanese civilians at risk and could increase the tensions between the two countries,” the statement said.

“The Secretary-General condemns the incident and takes note that the Government of Sudan has rightly responded through diplomatic means. He urges both Governments to show restraint and make greater efforts to improve their relations.”

The statement noted that Mr. Ban is also concerned by reports that Sudanese Government forces bombed rebel positions in the Jebel Moon area of West Darfur on the weekend. He called on the Government and other parties to the conflict to cease all military actions and commit to a cessation of hostilities.

“The Secretary-General reiterates that the only solution to the conflict in Darfur is through an

inclusive, political statement.”

Today, in his latest report on the UN mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), known as MINURCAT, Mr. Ban said recent clashes in the region have further destabilized the already insecure border between Chad and Sudan’s volatile Darfur region, areas also facing a grave humanitarian crisis.

The day after the Chadian and Sudanese Governments signed an agreement, violence broke out on the border when rebels entered eastern Chad on 4 May.

Authorities from Chad accused Sudan of supporting the incursion, and launched air raids against Chadian rebels in Darfur, a move the Sudanese Government labelled an “act of war,” according to the report.

The Secretary-General stressed that “enduring stabilization” in the region requires both nations to resolve continuing internal conflicts.

He voiced concern over the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, where 260,000 Sudanese refugees, 70,600 CAR refugees and 171,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are receiving assistance.