

29 June 2009

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Presidency accepts proposals to normalize relations with US

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah el-Din who is also in charge of Darfur dossier met with President Al Bashir yesterday to brief him on the outcomes of the recent CPA conference held in Washington and the ongoing steps to normalize relations with the USA. Ghazi told reporters after the meeting that President Al-Bashir agreed to a host of proposals including the need to take measures, to double efforts to settle Darfur and other pending issues as well as to speed up democratic transition, adding that President Al Bashir praised the outcomes of the visit to Washington. Ghazi described his meetings and discussions with the US Administration and the Congress officials as “unprecedented”. However, he said all these efforts did not result in substantial change in Washington’s stand towards Khartoum but the government delegation was able to get the message across. He described the US Administration as “composite and complex”.

Ghazi has criticized the negative statements by the SPLM officials, saying some of them went to the US to justify continuity of economic sanctions on Sudan. “This is a national issue and its lifting should be unequivocally demanded. A pessimist has no solutions and should not lead others” he added.

Meanwhile, Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie has lambasted the SPLM’s statement that it would block the way for normalization between Khartoum and Washington. According to **Al-Raed**, Nafie said his party was ready for internationally-monitored elections.

On the other hand, **Al-Ayyam** reports SPLM SG Yassir Arman said Washington meeting did not achieve breakthrough as far as the CPA implementation is concerned. “The pending issues persist. A progress has yet to be achieved. We have once more discovered that the NCP lacks the political will needed to address issues. Time is running out,” he said.

MPs demand Presidency intervention to end Upper Nile JIU crisis

Al-Raed reports Upper Nile representatives in the National Assembly have called on the Presidency to intervene to address the JIU crisis in Malakal by withdrawing and replacing them with a new force to avoid further frictions. The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir told the Upper Nile MPs yesterday that he would convey their demands for the JIU pullout to the Presidency. Upper Nile Parliamentary group chairman Onutti Adego told reporters yesterday that the JIUs (SAF and SPLM) are now located in two separate places, one in the north of the town and the other in the south of the town adding that there is a state of fear and panic among civilians due to repeated clashes . He said they requested Al-Tahir to convey their demands to the SAF C-in-C Field Marshal Al-Bashir and SPLA C-in-C Gen. Salva Kiir.

NCP eye is on the south’s resources, not the southerners – Amum

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports SPLM SG has warned the NCP of denying the people of southern Sudan the right to exercise self-determination. “It is like playing with fire,” he said. “Depriving southerners of their rights will force them to use all means that enable them to choose between unity and secession,” he added. Amum has accused the NCP of dragging its feet on the CPA implementation to disrupt elections, popular consultations in the Nuba Mountains and the southern Blue Nile areas as well as referendum in Abyei. He said SPLM would not allow such a thing to happen, adding it would ensure that these rights are exercised and protected. He has described the National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir’s statement on referendum

bill as “an expression of the NCP’s exclusionist mentality that tends to deny other people their rights”. He pointed out that the NCP and its leadership are seeking unity of resource, not unity of people.

Meanwhile, NCP political secretary Ibrahim Ghandour has downplayed differences between the NCP and SPLM over the formation of the referendum commission. He told reporters yesterday that these differences could be resolved; pointing out that unity is the top choice of the people.

Defence Minister reveals advancement of military industry

Local dailies report SAF C-in-C Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein and senior SAF commanders yesterday attended graduation ceremony of batch 54 of war students from Karrarei University. According to **Akhir Lahza**, Gen. Hussein in his address to the ceremony affirmed that SAF is witnessing a qualitative shift in terms of modernizing itself. He said SAF troops have undergone internal and external training sessions pointing out the advancement of military industry in the country especially in the area of armoured vehicles, tanks and aviation industry which would be launched early in July to mark the 20th Revolution Anniversary.

Six dead in Sudan tribal clashes

APF 28/6/09 - Six people were killed in weekend tribal clashes in Sudan's Southern Kordofan region, which borders Darfur, a lawmaker from the oil-rich area told **APF** on Sunday.

The clashes took place between Nuba and Misseriya tribesmen, Hamid al-Samani, a member of Sudan's parliament who represents the region, said.

"Six people died in the clashes and 30 were injured," he said. The fighting took place in the Lagowa district, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) southeast of Khartoum, he said.

SRSG Ashraf Qazi to hold press conference tomorrow

Akhir Lahza reports SRSG Ashraf Qazi will hold a press conference tomorrow Tuesday at UNMIS HQs to brief the media on the recent CPA conference in Washington.

Presidential Adviser Ghazi to hold press conference today

Local dailies report Presidential Adviser Dr. Ghazi Salah el-Din will hold a press conference today noon at the **SMC** premises. According to **Al-Raed**, Ghazi will review outcome of the Sudan government delegation’s visit and participation in the CPA conference in Washington.

SPLM submits to Al-Bashir proposals for ministerial reshuffle

The SPLM has submitted to President Al-Bashir a list for ministerial reshuffle it intends to conduct in its ministerial portfolios in the federal government, sources informed **Al-Sahafa**. The sources said the proposed reshuffle would bring in new faces, adding another reshuffle would also be conducted in the movement’s portfolios in Khartoum State government.

Sudan Tribune journalist detained in Juba

Sudan Tribune website 28/6/09 – A reporter named Isaac Vuni, who frequently covers parliamentary debates and other developments in South Sudan’s capital city, was detained by police for five days, he said.

Mr. Vuni, whose writings appear in the Sudan Tribune, said that he was arrested for exposing the collapse of Nile Commercial Bank and the knocking of the presidential motorcade by a hit-and-run vehicle that belonged to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting’s headquarters in

Juba.

He reported that National Security arrested him while he was covering debates in the Government of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

While in custody, the reporter was periodically denied water, food, and access to the toilets, while UN officials allegedly were denied access to detainees.

In another development, ten Kenyan Somalis were deported for entering the South without any documents, three Tanzanians were arrested for printing fake currency while several Ugandans were arrested on various offences and have been in Juba police custody since April 29 this year.

Darfur rebels say civilians killed in Sudan raid

Reuters 28/6/09 - Darfur rebels yesterday accused Sudan government forces of a bombing raid on their territory which killed at least eight civilians, as mediators step up pressure for a settlement in the violent western region.

Fighters from the SLA said military planes bombed land they controlled near the settlement of Hashaba in remote North Darfur around midday on Saturday.

SLA founder Abdel Wahid Mohamed Ahmed al-Nur told **Reuters** his commanders reported eight civilians were killed in Hashaba, about 70km (43 miles) west of the North Darfur state capital, El Fasher. Another SLA commander reported over 20 casualties.

Sudan's armed forces were not immediately available to comment and it was impossible to verify the figure independently. United Nations sources could not confirm the reports.

"Tens of people have been injured and hundreds of cattle have died. This is the government's policy, to kill people to hang on to power," al-Nur told **Reuters** from Paris. He has refused to enter peace talks until after a full ceasefire.

Other international sources said they had unconfirmed reports of fighting in the area and several Sudan army planes had been seen leaving El Fasher airport.

If confirmed, the attack will dismay U.N. and African Union mediators who have been building up pressure for a political settlement in Sudan's west, which has been going through a period of relative calm.

The attack would mark the first significant number of casualties in government-rebel clashes since Khartoum and the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) fought over the two northern towns of Umm Baru and Kornoï in May.

SLM rules out negotiation before disarming Janjaweed

Miraya FM 28/6/09 - SLM leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Abdul Wahid Noor faction has denied any consultation with the international mediator, Djibril Bassole, with regards to the Darfur peace talks. SLM official Yahia Bolad told **Miraya FM** that SLM will not negotiate with the government unless they disarm the Janjaweed militia; guarantee peace for internally displaced persons and bring back the expelled NGOs.

Six dead in Sudan tribal clashes

AFP 28/6/09 - Six people were killed in weekend tribal clashes in Sudan's Southern Kordofan region, which borders Darfur, a lawmaker from the oil-rich area told **AFP** on Sunday.

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UNHCR warns JEM against children recruitment

Sudanese Media Centre 28/6/09 - Government sent a strongly-worded message to UNHCR in Geneva protesting JEM's abduction of refugees from camps in eastern Chad. It notes that JEM has recently abducted refugees from Orni and Kasoni camps in Chad.

Refugees' commissioner Mohammed Ahmed Al Aghbash told SMC that the government presented evidence to UNHCR in Geneva showing involvement of JEM in abduction of refugees. He said UNHCR has understood the government vision on this regard.

Meanwhile UNHCR reacted by sending a message to JEM representative in N'djamena, Chad urging him to release about 30 refugees abducted by the movement from Kasoni camp. According to **Al-Intibaha**, UNHCR also demanded that JEM should halt forceful recruitment of children.

Book: "Ocampo, west's dirty policy towards Sudan"

Akhir Lahza reports a book titled "Ocampo, west's dirty policy towards Sudan", by Shams el-Hudda Ibrahim Idriss, is now in Khartoum bookshops. The book, 234 pages, focuses on "Sudan in the west's thought; west's policy towards Darfur; pretext of foreign intervention, ICC and the unjust decision".