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Highlights

Kiir has reservations on the census results

Al-Khartoum reports that the FVP Salva Kiir has voiced reservations on the census results. Kiir told reporters yesterday in Juba that the population census exercise was not properly carried out in some areas.

Meanwhile, the **Sudan Radio Service** reports the Southern Sudan Census Commission as saying the census results recently endorsed by the presidency are not the official figures.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service in Juba on Tuesday, the chairman of the commission Isaiah Chol, said that the official figures have yet to be released. "You may have heard certain figures which people are talking about, but they are not from official sources. Even if the results are approved, we, the implementing agencies, have yet to be officially instructed to release the results. We have heard over the radio and we have been told but there are no direct instructions telling us to release results,"

Chol appealed to the people of southern Sudan to be calm until the official census results are released. He said that the results will help the commission in planning and policy formulation before the coming elections. He also said the results will help in reviewing the power-sharing protocol of the CPA.

Before the presidency approved the results last week, the population census council announced that the population of Sudan was 39,154,490.

In a related development, **Al-Wifaq** reports SPLM Deputy Secretary General Ann Ito as saying that legal measures would be taken to revolve the dispute between the two CPA partners over the census results. She said using the results for delimiting elections constituencies would not be fair.

NCP, SPLM trade accusations over CPA implementation

Local dailies report the NCP and the SPLM have accused each other of lack of commitment to the CPA implementation and the democratic transition process. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, while the Presidential Adviser and NCP official Ghazi Salah Al-Din has held the SPLM responsible for military confrontations, security tensions, tribal conflicts and financial mismanagement in Southern Sudan as well as failure to transform into a political party, the Federal Higher Education Minister and SPLM official Peter Adok accused the NCP of lack of seriousness to conduct reforms, to allow political and democratic transition and of taking unilateral decisions. The NCP and SPLM leaders exchanged the accusations yesterday at the forum of Sudanese media practitioners abroad.

According to **Al-Khartoum**, Ghazi said, "although The Hague arbitration decision is not binding, the NCP will accept it," He wondered "where GoSS has spent an amount of \$ 6 billions" at a time when the Southern Sudan is suffering from insecurity, lack of development and infrastructure. Peter Adok described as "a joke" the talk about the NCP's commitment to the Abyei Arbitration decision even if the Court rules in favour of SPLM.

Official criticizes Abyei's administrative structure

Miraya FM - Senior Abyei Administration official Juaj Agog has said that the formation of

Abyei's administration which was announced by the government two days ago, does not co-exist with the actual situation in the area. He added that this new formation contradicts the structure proposed by the administration earlier.

Juaj pointed that the number of administrative divisions are not proportional to the required services, stressing that implementing the current structure is impossible.

Speaking to *Miraya FM* Juaj said that some administrations do not have employees adding that the current structure is politicized by providing the National Congress Party with a larger share of the administrative structure. He further called on the concerned parties to form a neutral committee.

Government denies readmitting ousted INGOs with new names

Al-Wifaq reports MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq has dismissed the USG John Holmes' statement that the ousted INGOs would return with new names. On the three aid agencies coming to operate in Sudan, MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said, "No date is set for their arrival". "The Government will never readmit the expelled INGOs even if their names and logos are changed. But it will have no objection to consider other NGOs from the same countries," he said, according to *Al-Sahafa*. Meanwhile, *Al-Ahdath* reports Al-Sadiq as saying that some NGOs have applied to operate in Darfur but declined to reveal their identity. However, informed sources said Sudan government had agreed to accept Save the Children, Care and Mercy Corps. Other applications from British and French NGOs are also under consideration.

Umma Party names presidential candidate

Umma Party (Reform and Renewal) has nominated its leader Mubarak Al-Fadil Al-Mahid to contest upcoming presidential elections, reports *Al-Wifaq*. The announcement was made at a press conference yesterday.

Defence Minister's absence stirs up controversy in the Parliament

The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir adjourned a Parliament session yesterday minutes after commencement due to lack of quorum, reports *Al-Sahafa*. SPLM and NDA MPs criticized the adjournment and considered it a pre-planned move to save the Defence Minister from an urgent question to account for the recent bombing of trucks convoy by unidentified aircraft in eastern Sudan.

SPLM refutes NCP claims over censorship

SPLM has issued a statement dismissing NCP allegations that the current media censorship is imposed at the behest of the FVP Kiir, *Al-Khartoum* reports. "The State Minister for Information and Communication Kamal Obeid's claim at the opening session of the forum of Sudanese media practitioners abroad that the censorship is imposed at the behest of the FVP Kiir is another falsehood to be added to the NCP's record of lies," the statement, signed by SPLM Spokesperson Yen Mathew Chol, said. "How can the FVP and SPLM Chairman approve of a censorship that block his own decisions and statements on many national concerns such as reconciliation, transparency, respect to the constitution and the CPA" the statement said. "SPLM categorically rejects the NCP-imposed censorship" it said. "It did not even occur to the FVP Kiir, let alone recommending censorship," the statement added.

UN dispatches 120 personnel to Jonglei State

Sudan Tribune website - The UN mission in Sudan announced today the deployment of some 120 personal in the affected counties of Jonglei state where thousands are taking shelter after fleeing recent tribal confrontations.

The UN mission said the 120 civilian and military personnel will be deployed to the affected counties of Akobo and Pibor as part of its mission to support Southern Sudan government in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

In coordination with the state authorities, the international staff will assist to restore an effective dialogue between the warring communities to avoid further deterioration of the security situation. They also will address the root causes of the tribal conflicts.

To ensure civilians' protection and facilitate monitoring the security situation in state, the dispatched UNMIS teams will provide technical and logistical assistance to Jonglei state.

The UN workers will also provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in the state.

He further said that the UN military teams would be stationed there for four weeks to monitor the tense situation there

SPLA deploys in conflict areas

Al-Khartoum reports GoSS VP Riek Machar as saying SPLA troops have been deployed in the tribal conflict areas in the Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile States. Machar also confirmed to **Miraya FM** the orders to the army to disarm civilians by force. He said authorities took measures to prevent conflict from spilling into Juba.

UN urges end to inter-ethnic clashes in Southern Sudan

UN News Centre - The recent surge in deadly ethnic violence in Southern Sudan, killing at least 66 people, is cause for serious concern, a United Nations official in the region warned yesterday, calling for an immediate and peaceful resolution to the clashes.

Clashes on 8 May between the rival Lou Nuer and Jikany ethnic groups in the village of Torkech reportedly wounded 57 people, the majority of them children with some in critical condition, and forced at least 1,550 from their homes.

"The UN is seriously concerned about the increasing violence in the area and the continuing loss of innocent lives of women, men and children," stressed UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Southern Sudan Lise Grande.

Ms. Grande called on "community leaders, and all relevant authorities to intervene and resolve the conflict through peaceful means and reconciliation."

The UN has sent an assessment mission to the area, and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) is mobilizing food assistance to be distributed to the displaced people.

Security in Nasir town, where many of the displaced have taken up camp, is calm but there is fear of retaliatory attacks in the neighbouring Ulang County, part of which is composed of the same ethnic groups fighting in Torkech.

Chad's Deby wants U.N., not AU to resolve Sudan row

Reuters - Chad wants the United Nations, not the African Union (AU), to try and resolve its

crisis with neighbouring Sudan, President Idriss Deby told a rally yesterday.

"With regard to the AU, Chad withdraws its confidence, entrusting instead only the U.N. with the job of resolving the crisis between Chad and Sudan," Deby said.

Deby said that his country would not take part in any further meetings on Sudan, without giving further details.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website***, Deby said Chad would cooperate fully and openly with the ICC on war crimes in Darfur.

Speaking to the demonstration of around 10,000 people, President Deby said that his government is considering severing diplomatic relations with Sudan.

The Chadian government had declared Wednesday a paid national holiday to celebrate victory over the rebels.

Meanwhile, ***local dailies*** report Sudan Government has played down the anti-Sudan rally staged yesterday in N'djamena, saying such demonstrations would not affect historic relations between the two peoples. "Such rallies will have no impact on relations between the two peoples. These demonstrations are intended by the Chadian regime to advance certain agenda," MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said, according to ***Akhbar Al Youm***.

Sudan forces bomb near North Darfur UN

Reuters - Peacekeepers said they saw Sudanese government aircraft bombing suspected rebel positions in the western Darfur region yesterday days after negotiations between Khartoum and the insurgents resumed.

But Sudan's armed forces denied the reports, saying they had not carried out any operations around the town of Umm Baru, in North Darfur, the scene of recent clashes between the rebel Justice and Equality Movement and a group of former rebels backed by the government.

Members from the joint U.N./African Union UNAMID peacekeeping force said they heard five shell explosions in territory north of the town.

"UNAMID forces observed Sudanese Government aircraft bombing targets north of Umm Baru ... shortly after 10 a.m. this morning," the force said in a statement.

A UNAMID official, who asked not to be named, said it was thought the army was targeting JEM positions. No one was immediately available from JEM to comment.

Brigadier Uthman al-Agbash told ***Reuters*** no government bombing had taken place. "The Sudanese army did not have any military operations in this area" he said.

Lam Akol says arrest warrant will not solve the Darfur crisis

Sudan Radio Service - A senior SPLM official, Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, has issued a statement in which he opposes the arrest warrant issued by the ICC against President Omar al-Bashir. Dr. Akol says it will disrupt the implementation of the CPA and hamper efforts to solve the Darfur conflict.

"The ICC has issued a suppressive decision against the Sudan. But the Sudanese people have spoken clearly against this foreign interference. It aims to disturb the country's security and stability. With such insecurity and instability, the problems of Darfur can not be solved nor the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement be implemented.” He said Dr. Lam Akol was addressing an opening session of the United Democratic Salvation Front conference in Khartoum on Monday.

Commentary:

Opinion: two crucial events ... where are the preparations?

Khalid Al-Tijani Nour - **Iylaf** – 14/05/09

A close observer of the current political developments would not believe that this is a country on the threshold of two crucial events expected to take place within the next twenty months or so. One of them is the general elections due to take place in nine months time ... the first of its kind in the last 25 years and one that people expect to be free and fair and from which they expect an acceptable and binding outcome. The elections are expected to put an end to the power struggle in the country and bring legitimacy to the government and stability. The second keynote event coming up is the referendum for southern Sudan that is expected to take place about 10 months after the elections. This will be the first time in history that a segment of the population would decide the fate of the country's unity.

The worst scenario, God not wills, is that these two major events may lead to chaos, insecurity and divisions in the country. Our hope is to see these two major events take place peacefully. But this largely depends on the manner in which our leaders, with their different political inclinations, will proceed. The question is do we see any indication on the Sudanese arena that these issues are being addressed with the required gravity and seriousness?

The elections are a constitutional right with a timetable set in the CPA, signed four years ago. It is also a political activity that will pave the way for a true transition to democracy and will give legitimacy to a democratically elected government. However, the groundwork required to prepare for these elections have been delayed either because of differences between the partners to the CPA or lack of will on the side of one or both partners.

The SPLM too is not keen on whether or not the Constitution has been violated as long as it holds fast to the CPA and can resolve any minor matters bilaterally with the NCP without bringing the other political forces into the fray. The CPA gives it a cool 28% share in power and it has no guarantees to maintain that stake should people go to the polls. FVP Salva Kiir has reportedly told a US-based news agency a few months back that the SPLM originally favored that elections be conducted after the referendum but was pressured at the talks in Naivasha to accept mid-interim elections. The SPLM's rejection of the census results is a clear indication that it wants to announce right from now that it would not abide by the results of the elections. As such, how then will the elections be legitimate, free and fair?

The astounding silence maintained by the political parties is also very strange. These parties are in a state of division and do not seem to be prepared to contest the polls. Responsible national dialogue is the key to guarantee legitimate elections. History has shown that only great leaders who address challenges can save nations during turbulent times.