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Post-Referendum Monitor

Sudan hints at “possibilities for exceptions” over UNMIS mandate

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 02/06/11 – Foreign Minister Ali Karti says the proposals by the Sudan government on Abyei are a temporary arrangement pending a lasting solution to the problem. He told EU officials who met him yesterday to express their concern over Abyei that these arrangements have been dictated by the “continuous violations to the CPA by the SPLA”.

On the UNMIS mandate, the foreign minister reiterated Sudan’s wishes to see an end to the UNMIS mandate by 9th July. He hinted however on “possibilities for an understanding over any exceptions, should the need arise, for the presence of a third party with a new mandate and arrangements that the government has to agree upon”. He stressed that Sudan, and no other party, would have to give the final say on whether or not UNMIS forces remain in the country.

SPLA has planted mines around water sources in Abyei – Sudan minister

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 02/06/11 – Science and Technology Minister Eissa Bushra says the Abyei Area would never be part of southern Sudan and has no links with the south. Addressing a rally organised by the Sudan Women’s Union in support of Abyei, the minister pointed out that there are some 50 documents from colonial days that prove Abyei is northern territory. He described as “baseless” all those deals reached on Abyei such as the Abyei Protocol and the PCA ruling on the region’s border.

The minister called on the SAF to take full control of Abyei “since the SPLA has planted mines on all water-holes in the Area.”

Nearly 100 civilians killed in Abyei-official

Reuters Juba, 02/06/11 - Nearly 100 civilians have been killed in Sudan's disputed Abyei region since the northern military seized it on May 21, an Abyei official said on Thursday, citing a preliminary count.

"We are waiting for final confirmation with names, but the toll is close to 100 people, not more," Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol told *Reuters*. "These are civilians," he added.

A spokesman for the northern army was not immediately available to comment on the report, but a senior official with the north's ruling National Congress Party denied the army had attacked civilians.

“This is incorrect,” Rabie Abdelati, a senior official at the information ministry, said. “I do not think the SAF attack or target civilians”. The northern army entered Abyei because of a provocation by southern forces, he added.

SPLA shall maintain its positions in Southern Kordofan – SPLM

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 02/06/11 – The SPLM (Southern Kordofan Chapter) issued a statement yesterday that the SPLA contingents in the JIUs would maintain their positions in compliance to the provisions of the CPA’s security arrangements and reserves the right to self-defence and retaliation in the event of a SAF aggression.

In the statement, the SPLM censured National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir and the SAF Chief of Staff Ismat Abdulrahman over recent statements in which they gave the SPLA an ultimatum to withdraw south of the 1.1.56 line. The SPLM pointed out that the Speaker

should have been keen to implement the CPA instead of endorsing the order for the SAF to forcefully disarm the SPLA JIUs north of the 1.156 line. The SPLM described the order attributed to the SAF Chief of Staff that the SAF attack and take over positions of the SPLA JIUs north of the 1.156 line as a blatant violation of the security arrangements that “allow the JIUs to maintain those positions until 9 April 2012”.

National Assembly mulls amendments in Sudan Police Act

Al-Sahafa Parliament, 02/06/11 – National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir maintains that parliament is willing to amend some provisions of the Police Act. He pointed out that the Act currently in force was enacted under pressures of the Interim Period.

Information Minister Kamal Obeid also told parliament that some members of the earlier parliament sought to weaken through legislation the role of the police and security organs and has also called for change.

Opposition says SPLM rejects call to reduce transitional government’s term

Sudantribune.com Bor, 01/06/11 - South Sudan’s largest opposition party says its call for two year term limits in the new transitional constitution of the soon-to-be independent Republic of South Sudan has been discarded by the regions ruling party, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM).

In a cell phone interview from the capital of South Sudan, Juba, SPLM-DC MP and opposition chief whip, Andrew Okuny Ayom told *Sudan Tribune* that their proposal to reduce the term of transitional government from four to two years has been rejected by the SPLM.

He said any constitution must be driven by the people and not one political party, accusing the SPLM of not giving room for dialogue. Okuny said that the SPLM had issued inflammatory statements during the decision making process causing SPLM-DC members to quit the constitutional review committee. Okuny said his party is not ready to agree to some provisions of the transitional constitution pointing to what he called “extra-ordinary presidential powers”. He pointed to article 101 of the transitional constitution that gives the president powers to remove a state governor and or dissolve a state legislative assembly in the event of a crisis in the state that threatens national security and territorial integrity.

Okuny said SPLM-DC wants the transitional government to rule for two years after which the general elections would be held. He said the reasons given by SPLM for extending the transitional period to four years were not convincing but conceded that without other political parties in the South Sudan assembly it was hard to challenge the SPLM.

Responding to the SPLM-DC’s concerns the SPLM’s secretary for political affairs, Antipas Nyok Kucha said a four year term limit was needed to prepare the country for a census and new general elections.

He said the permanent constitution to be drafted after the end of four years will entail the presidential term limits among other things. He said many people will be given chances in a forum to participate in the new coming permanent constitution.

Kucha said the opposition members who withdrew from the decision did so because of their own problems.

Other Highlights

Al-Bashir to address meeting of NCP consultative body

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 02/06/11 – President Al-Bashir would address later today the start of the opening session of the NCP's Consultative Council, reports Deputy Chairman of the party's Consultative Council, Al-Nour Mohamed Ibrahim.

Al-Nour noted that this ordinary session comes against the background of major development in the country and would focus discussions on post-referendum economic issues and on the Darfur peace process.

US urges immediate north-south Sudan talks on Abyei crisis

VoA Washington, 01/06/11 - The United States is calling for immediate talks between the leaders of northern and southern Sudan to resolve the dispute over Abyei. Two senior U.S. envoys visited Khartoum Wednesday to underscore U.S. concern. The State Department's chief Africa diplomat is calling for emergency north-south Sudanese talks to settle a crisis over the disputed Abyei region that threatens the country's six-year peace process.

At a press event here, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson reiterated U.S. condemnation of the SAF move on Abyei and called on Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir to hold immediate talks on ways to restore calm, uphold the CPA, and recommit to a peaceful resolution of the Abyei issue.

"We are deeply concerned about the situation in Abyei, and in southern Sudan," said Carson. "We want to do as much as we possibly can between now and July 9th to assure that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is fully complied with. We want to see a withdrawal of Sudanese troops from the areas of Abyei. And we are looking for both senior leaders to meet together to discuss how to defuse tensions between the two parties, and to fully implement the remaining items that have to be complied with to complete the CPA."

Carson said the same message was conveyed by Obama Counterterrorism Adviser John Brennan and U.S. Sudan Special Envoy Princeton Lyman in talks with senior officials in Khartoum Wednesday.

Mr. Brennan underscored President Obama's deep concern over the continued presence of Sudanese Armed Forces in Abyei and urged a rapid and peaceful resolution to the crisis and to resolving outstanding CPA issues," said a White House statement, according to *Sudantribune.com*.

"U.S. Special Envoy Lyman will remain in the region to work with the African Union, United Nations and the parties to urgently address this crisis. This trip reflects the President's personal commitment to a peaceful resolution of the problems that have beset the region over the last several decades".

Al-Bashir to visit Halayeb

Al-Khartoum Port Sudan, 02/06/11 – Red Sea State government has announced that President Al-Bashir would be touring the Red Sea State this month where he is expected to inaugurate development projects in a number of localities including Halayeb.

UNMIS closes down Radio Miraya

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 02/06/11 – UNMIS closed down yesterday the *Radio Miraya* offices in

Khartoum and has terminated the contracts of its northern staff.

The paper has learnt that the affected staff have rejected the decision to terminate their contracts and have asked the Mission leadership to absorb them in any other section in the Mission should the United Nations Security Council decide on an extension of the Mission's mandate.

Sudan and Darfur's LJM rebels to sign a peace agreement within weeks

Sudantribune.com Doha, 01/06/11 - Sudanese government and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) will sign a peace agreement within three weeks, the two parties said one day after the adoption of a framework document for peace in Darfur by the Darfur stakeholder conference.

The Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé said this approach allows to surmount the divisions of rebel groups which can sign bilateral agreements with the central government without abrogating or contradicting each others.

"Within two or three weeks a peace agreement should be signed (with the government), however we did not yet agree with mediation on the date of signing," said Tijani El-Sissi in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* and *Radio Dabanga* today in Doha.

He also said they are expecting to soon reach a compromise with the government over the two outstanding issues besides the referendum.

Further the government's top negotiator Amin Hassan Omer indicated in a separate interview that they expect to affix their signatures on a preliminary agreement within a week and to hand it to the mediation which will determine the date of the signing ceremony.

El-Sissi said they are discussing with the government on the criteria according to which this vice-president would be selected. He further said if the latter is appointed by the president this would be a permanent dividend of peace for Darfur but if he is elected this will be another issue.

Amin, for his part, stressed that only the president will choose who will be his deputy and nobody else. He also disclosed that the rebel groups request to appoint someone from their ranks but said that the government rejects such demand.

Northern Sudan faces new plot aimed at fragmentation - Hezbollah

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Beirut, 02/06/11 – Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasralla warns that north Sudan is now facing a new plot aimed at fragmenting the country. The Hezbollah chief was addressing a ceremony to mark the 22nd anniversary of the death of the founder of the Islamic state in Iran. He pointed out that this "US-Israeli plot" would not end at that but is bound to spread to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

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