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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Fighting in volatile Sudan oil state: UN

AFP; local dailies Khartoum, 05/06/11 - Fighting erupted on Sunday in South Kordofan, Sudan's volatile oil-producing border state, a UN Spokesperson said.

The SPLA said the fighting began when a group within the northern army refused to disarm the SPLA troops, a claim the SAF denied.

UNMIS confirmed the clashes but was unable to say who the fighting was between.

"There were two attacks. One happened in Kadugli town itself, where a police station was attacked last night (Saturday) by unknown gunmen," UNMIS Spokesperson Hua Jiang told **AFP**, adding that there was no information on casualties.

"We have also had reports of shooting in Um Dorain today. We have sent land and air patrols to the area to investigate," she said.

The army acknowledged that there had been fighting in Um Dorain, a former SPLA stronghold around 35 kilometres (22 miles) southeast of Kadugli, but insisted it was an "isolated incident."

"A soldier fired indiscriminately, for personal reasons, and the situation is now under control," the northern Sudanese Armed Forces Spokesperson, Sawarmi Khaled, said in a statement published by the official **SUNA** news agency. According to **Al-Ahram Al-Youm**, the SAF Spokesperson assured that relations with the SPLA in the Nuba Mountains area are stable and "are steadily proceeding towards an accord."

However, the SPLM, the state's political branch of the SPLA, said the clashes took place because of a rebellion against northern police by a group of SAF troops in the 14th infantry division who refused an order to disarm the SPLA.

The SPLM said in a statement obtained by **AFP** that the fighting started late on Saturday in Kadugli, the state capital, and then spread to Um Dorain.

Meanwhile, the head of the Southern Kordofan Security Committee, Tau Kanjila Tiya, says the incident was sparked when SPLA elements of the Joint Integrated Police Units refused an order to head to Abyei and were then ordered to disarm, according to **Al-Ahram Al-Youm**. A munitions store was looted of its contents, he added but did not apportion blame as to who was responsible for that.

Following a meeting yesterday, the state Security Committee called on all regular forces in the area to exercise restraint and has called for political talks between the NCP and the SPLA to defuse the situation.

Al-Ahram Al-Youm also quotes UNMIS Spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk as saying that the UN Mission would launch an investigation into the Um Dorain incident and has sent aerial patrols. He also said that all personnel of the Mission are safe and there have been no reports of casualties.

Meeting of the parties in Addis was successful – NCP

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 06/06/11- The NCP has described the outcome just-concluded talks with the SPLM in Addis Ababa as "successful". NCP's Gutbi Al-Mahdi said that the two sides managed to bridge their differences on a number of outstanding issues.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Al-Mahdi however underlined the need to demobilise and reintegrate the SPLA forces in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan areas before 9th July. “The presence of an armed force not allied to the SAF positioned north of the 1.1.56 line is unacceptable,” he said.

He also said that a meeting of the NCP’s Political Office that he heads also underlined the need for urgent and final solutions so the Abyei issue would be put to rest.

According to *Al-Rai Al-Aam*, Gutbi also said that the fact the United Nations Security Council admits that UNMIS peacekeepers has failed in their civilian protection roles only confirm the Sudan’s position that the SAF has to remain in Abyei. “The SAF,” he maintains, “has the responsibility to protect civilians, the JIUs and the UNMIS forces that can not protect themselves against attacks by the SPLA.”

AU official to arrive in Sudan for talks on Abyei

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 05/06/11 - The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Jean Ping, is expected to arrive in Sudan on Monday to hold talks with northern and southern officials concerning the ongoing situation in the country’s flashpoint region of Abyei.

A press release issued by African Union on Sunday said that Ping arrive in Sudan to hold talks with officials in Khartoum and Juba in order to encourage them to “spare no effort in order to overcome the current difficulties in Abyei through dialogue.” The release said that the visit would also aim to encourage the successful conclusion of north-south negotiations on the outstanding aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), as well as on post-referendum arrangements beyond secession in July.

According to the AU, Ping will also travel to El-Fashir, Darfur, to meet with the senior leadership of the UNAMID and to attend the opening ceremony of the 8th Session of Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) in Khartoum, on 6 June 2011.

Abyei is northern territory pending referendum – Ahmed Al-Tahir

Al-Sahafa Parliament, 06/06/11 – Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir told members of the deposed Abyei Area Administration whom he held talks with yesterday that Abyei would remain northern Sudanese territory until such a time when a referendum with the participation of both Dinka-Ngok and Misseriya is held.

Majak Kur, a member of the deposed Administration, said following the meeting that they had asked authorities to expedite the formation of a new executive body for Abyei. He said that the Speaker told them that a civilian administration would soon be established in Abyei and that the NCP is ready for talks with the SPLM on Abyei.

Deputy Speaker of the Abyei Legislative Assembly, Zakariya Atem (NCP), said that UNMIS evacuated them from the area for fear their lives may be in danger.

SPLM adamant there will be no concessions over Abyei

Sudan Tribune Juba, 05/06/11 - The SPLM has reiterated on Saturday that the contested oil-producing region of Abyei will not remain part of north Sudan. “We in the Government of South Sudan and in the SPLM condemn the continuous deliberate violation of terms of the CPA by the government in Khartoum, particularly the NCP.”

“One such example of continuous serious violations of terms of the CPA is the recent invasion of Abyei by the SAF. We strongly condemn it because it is unconstitutional and against the Abyei

Protocol which is part of the 2005 peace agreement the two parties signed to implement”, reads part of the statement sent to *The Juba Post* newspaper.

The statement signed by Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Information and GoSS Spokesperson, argued that the issue of Abyei should already have been resolved through the self determination vote the region was granted as part of the CPA and the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague defining Abyei’s borders.

Minister Marial denied having elements of the SPLA operating in the area as independent forces. The only SPLA troops were part of JIUs drawn from both the SAF and SAF as per the 2005 peace deal. The statement said. Since 2005, former rebels, the SPLA have been the official army of South Sudan.

“There are no SPLA forces in Abyei. The government is clear and without any doubt that there is no presence of the SPLA in Abyei as stipulated by the Abyei protocol. The SPLA soldiers in Abyei are component of the JIUs mandated by the CPA monitor and protect the agreement. So, the claim by the government blaming the SPLA is unjustified”, the statement further said.

Other Highlights

1,330 killed or injured in clashes between the SPLA and renegade forces

Al-Ahram Al-Youm (SMC) Khartoum, 06/06/11 – The South Sudan Liberation Army led by Peter Gadit is accusing the SPLA of conducting an ethnic cleansing campaign targeting the Nuer in Unity State. Paul Got Kuoth, a Spokesperson for the forces, revealed that their forces recently repulsed the advance of some 5,000 SPLA soldiers sent from Bahr-el-Ghazal to raid Nuer areas.

He further noted that these ethnic cleansing operations are carried out with the coordination of the state governor in Unity State.

Norway donates US\$ 10,000 for capacity building of civil servants in S.Sudan

Radio Miraya Juba, 04/06/11 - The Government of Norway has donated US\$10,000 towards capacity building of civil servants in south Sudan. "A good public service is very important for effective delivery of services to the people," Nina Schjelderup, Norwegian Consul in Juba, told reporters on Saturday at Juba International Airport.

The Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Labour and Public Service had requested the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to provide civil service experts who could help it set up a public service expected to run effectively after July 9th. The Ministry's undersecretary, Rebecca Joshua, said that 200 experts drawn from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia will train, mentor and coach the civil servants in south Sudan. She asked the civil servants to cooperate and embrace the opportunity to learn from the experts.

Chande holds talks with government, UN officials in Darfur

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum; Al-Fasher, 06/06/11 – Independent Human Rights Expert on Sudan, Justice Mohamed Osman Chande would hold talks with government officials in Darfur as well as with the state prosecutors, aid workers and representatives of UN agencies. Chande held talks in Al-Fasher yesterday with the head of UNAMID focussing on the challenges the joint mission faces.

Authorities release 3 PCP members

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 06/06/11 –Authorities have released in the last two days three members of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) who were in detention since April last year. Hassan Abdalla Al-Hassan, a prominent member of the PCP, told a press conference yesterday that Mohamed Ahmed Doud, Abakar Musa and Mohamed Yagoub were released after over one year in detention. He said some more members of the PCP still remain in detention.

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood seeks mediation between NCP & PCP

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 05/06/11 - A delegation from Sudan's Popular Congress Party (PCP) held a rare meeting yesterday in Cairo with the head of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Mohammed Badie.

The meeting is expected to be followed by another between Badie and PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi though a date and place is yet to be specified.

Al-Mahboub Abdel-Salam, a leading PCP figure, said that Badie plans to visit Sudan soon and will attempt to mediate between Turabi and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) headed by president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

JEM is prepared to engage in talks with Sudanese government – spokesperson

Sudantribune.com Doha, 05/06/11 - The JEM says it is ready to engage in negotiations with the Sudanese government after the adoption of a framework document for peace in Darfur by over 500 delegates at stakeholders conference in Doha this week.

The rebel group welcomed the outcome of the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference held in Doha from 27 to 31 May stating that the framework text is a valid ground to start talks with the government of the ruling National Congress Party.

"JEM hails the call of the UN Secretary General to the parties to make the concessions needed for the sake of peace in Darfur," said the spokesperson of the rebel movement Gibreel Adam Bilal. He further revealed the arrival of a number of JEM commanders from Darfur adding that more negotiators are expected to arrive to Doha very soon.

"We will engage in talks with full determination to reach a comprehensive peace agreement including the ceasefire and security arrangements," he said.

Sudan oil output to rise to 490,000 bpd in 2012

Reuters, Kuala Lumpur, 06/06/11 - Sudan's crude output will rise to 490,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2012 from output of around 470,000 to 480,000 bpd now, Sudan's State Minister for Oil Ali Ahmed Osman told Reuters on Sunday. International oil prices would rise later in the year as the global economy stabilizes, Osman said. Political upheaval across the oil producing regions of North Africa and the Middle East would also support the market, he said.

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