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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

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Post-Referendum Monitor

SAF accuses UNMIS and some agencies of having a hand in S. Kordofan

Al-Sudani Kadugli, 19/06/11 – The SAF says it is in full control of Kadugli and its environs and is combing the area of elements plotting to cause insecurity in the region. The head of Military Intelligence for the SAF 14th Infantry Division, Col. Osama Mohamed Ahmed, says there was a plot to execute senior political and military figures in the state as well as their army base, the governor's residence and other key government installations.

He said that authorities have managed to seize documents and maps that prove that some UN agencies and NGOs, both national and international, were involved in backing the SPLM plot against Southern Kordofan. He also said that these parties were planning to clear the grounds for an SPLA takeover in Southern Kordofan.

Osama says they seized a number of trucks laden with food and other supplies for the SPLA. These trucks had the marking of ESCO [*a company*] and UNMIS on them and were licensed from Southern Sudan.

SAF rebuffs report of Agok bombardment

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum; Juba, 19/06/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled has described as “baseless” recent UN reports of a SAF bombardment near Agok, south of the Abyei area. He pointed out that the SAF has nothing to do with the issue and has no call to carry out such action.

He also rebuffed statements to *Reuters* by UNMIS Spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk in which the latter reportedly said that the UN strongly condemns the detention by the SAF of 4 peacekeepers in Kadugli. Al-Suwarni said that the SAF has no enmity with the UN and in fact provides protection and facilitates their mission in the country.

SAF rebuffs SPLM claims of controlling parts of Southern Kordofan

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 19/06/11 – SPLM figure Abdulaziz Al-Hilu's claims that his forces are in control of the Dallami, Haiban, Al-Buram and Oum-Dorein localities as well as 60 SAF garrisons around Southern Kordofan have been rebuffed as “baseless” by the SAF.

Al-Hilu, in statements to the press yesterday, said that the state governor's assurances that calm has been restored in Kadugli is meant to mislead the public as fighting is ongoing in the state capital with his forces in control of some “key areas”. Al-Hilu says the SAF has continued its aerial bombardment of a number of areas, especially those under the control of his forces. He says his forces would take the necessary measures to protect the loss of innocent civilian lives.

The state government has also rebuffed these claims by the SPLM figure that it says is meant to sow sedition among the people in the state.

NCP-Khartoum vows to reciprocate on SPLA attacks in Southern Kordofan

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 19/06/11 – The head of the NCP office in Khartoum, Abdulrahman Al-Khidir, says the SPLA attack on Southern Kordofan was ill-advised and that the SPLA did not study well the possible outcome of such action. Al-Khidir who is also the Governor of Khartoum State said that such action requires reciprocation so that the “SPLA would come back to its senses” before any form of dialogue could be resumed. Al-Khidir was addressing a relief convoy on its way to Southern Kordofan from Khartoum yesterday.

In a related development, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* quotes National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir as saying that the government would not allow the SPLA to destabilise the country. He blamed the SPLM leadership in the south – whom he described as having fallen under the influence of foreign parties - for the problems of Southern Kordofan.

UN condemns harassment of its peacekeepers in Southern Kordofan

UN News Center, 17/06/11 - The United Nations today strongly condemned the detention and abuse by the Sudanese armed forces of four UN peacekeepers who were on patrol in Kadugli, the main town in Southern Kordofan, where fighting is raging between the northern and southern armies.

The harassment of the peacekeepers was blamed on members of the northern army known as the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters in New York.

“The Sudanese Armed Forces, the [southern] Sudan People’s Liberation Army [SPLA] and other armed groups must immediately stop intimidating and harassing UN staff, who are critical to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable populations,” said Mr. Nesirky.

He said security and the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan remained of very serious concern amid intermittent fighting, shelling and military build-up in various areas of the state.

In the other disputed area of Abyei, the UN peacekeeping Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) confirmed that six shells fired by SAF earlier today landed 150 metres away from an UNMIS base in Agok. There is no report of casualties.

“We are in the process of verifying the details, as the SAF is claiming the shelling was part of an exercise, while the SPLA is stating that the SAF shelling was targeting SPLA positions and intimidating the local population around Agok. It remains to be determined precisely what happened,” said the UN spokesperson.

“Both sides must stop military actions, which are not only a threat to the UN in the area but to the local populations in the area,” he added.

Yesterday, a UNMIS team landing in Magennes – a contested area along the border of Upper Nile and Southern Kordofan states – was briefly detained by Government of Sudan police. The UNMIS team was accompanied by two members of the United Kingdom and United States consulates in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan.

According to the Government of Sudan officials in the area, the flight did not have the requisite landing authorization, although UNMIS had obtained flight clearances from the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba. The entire team was released and returned to Malakal in Upper Nile state and no one was harmed in the incident.

Sudan requests written explanation over Magenis incident

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 19/06/11 – Sudan is demanding a written explanation from the United Nations Mission in Sudan over why the UK Consul and the Political Officer at the US Consulate in Juba were flown to Magenis, north of Abyei, on UNMIS helicopter, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Rahama Mohamed Osman, told the paper.

He also said that the UN’s request for urgent humanitarian corridors in Southern Kordofan is something that the government is already considering even before such requests. The government, he says, would not allow humanitarian agencies access to those areas because there is no justification for such action.

SPLA used mercenaries in attempt to enter Abyei – sources

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 19/06/11 – Informed sources report that the SPLA recruited mercenaries from neighbouring African states to help them take over Abyei but then the heavy rains and clashes caused by cattle-rustling didn't bode well for their plot.

Al-Rai Al-Aam meanwhile reports that GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar is calling for the quick deployment of Ethiopian peacekeepers under UN command in the Abyei area. Machar who is in New York for meetings at the UN also called for reinforcements for the UN forces in Southern Kordofan.

Half a million displaced as Khartoum moves to crush Sudan's Nuba people

The Guardian, 18/06/11 – Fierce new fighting along Sudan's volatile north-south divide is raising deep concern for the safety of the Nuba people, the forgotten victims of the country's long-running civil war who are once again under attack by government forces and militias.

UN reports seen by the Observer state that "human rights abuses are commonplace and part of the strategy" in the new Nuba war. There are "door-to-door searches, presumably for SPLA elements"; "wide-scale exactions against unarmed civilians with specific targeting of African tribes"; looting of relief offices and warehouses; and "sightings of cattle-trucks with people sitting on their floors, with sentries guarding them".

"They take the young men," one official said. "Are they going to detain them and feed them and give them water for months? I don't think so."

Four days into the war, the UNMIS warned in an internal report that a humanitarian crisis was already developing "of a magnitude that UNMIS... is not sufficiently prepared to counter and the UN agencies are unprepared to deal with".

On Thursday the Nuba leader, Abdelaziz Adam al-Hilu, told AU mediators frantically crafting a ceasefire agreement that more than 3,000 people have disappeared – either killed or their whereabouts unknown – "because they are Nuba or belong to the SPLA".

Other Highlights

South Sudan to open embassies in 21 countries

IrishSun.com 19/06/11 - South Sudan plans to open its embassies in 21 countries after it officially gains independence in July, an official said.

The list of countries where it plans to open diplomatic missions includes Italy, France, Germany, Britain, the US and Israel. The new country, however, has not yet announced plans to open embassies in Russia and China.

SAF repulses SLM-Minnawi attack on Shangili Tobaya

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 19/06/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled says the army managed to repulse an attack by the forces of Minni Minnawi on the Shangili Tobaya market near Al-Fashir, North Darfur. He said in statement to the press that the rebels slipped into the market the day yesterday killing 11 civilians after having been beaten by the SAF in battle the previous day. The army, he says, is in pursuit of this group.

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