

30 May 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Monitor

- UNMIS has to pack and go before 9 July – Sudan (*local dailies*)
- Taha, Machar meeting postponed for the second time (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm et al*)
- Parliament threatens to endorse SAF invasion of Abyei as a final settlement (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- Sudanese army appoints military governor for Abyei (*Xinhua*)
- Sudan threatens to occupy 2 more disputed regions (*AllAfrica.com*)
- Government censures Clooney's statements on war crimes in Abyei (*The Citizen*)
- NCP discusses constitution, Abyei (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Solutions to Abyei lie in the protocols, PCP's Hassan Turabi (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Federal government to be dissolved within 40 days (*Al-Tayyar*)
- GoSS mulls alternatives to current oil export facilities (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)

Other Highlights

- Authorities release PCP officials (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Parties close to a deal on Darfur – Nafei (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- UN rights envoy arriving in Sudan tomorrow (*Sudantribune.com*)

Links

- Abyei occupation makes it harder to avoid war, Katrina Manson, (*The Financial Times*) - <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4f836a04-8a25-11e0-beff-00144feab49a.html>

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Post-Referendum Monitor

UNMIS has to pack and go before by 9 July – Sudan

Al-Ahram et al Khartoum, 30/05/11 – Whether or not UNMIS remains in Sudan beyond 9th July 2011 is a matter the Sudan government, not the United Nations Security Council, would have the final say on, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Khaled Musa says. Musa was responding to statements yesterday to *Reuters* attributed to an UNMIS spokesperson, Hua Jiang, saying that the ultimate decision on whether or not UNMIS remains beyond July 2011 is up to the United Nations Security Council.

“UNMIS came with the consent of the Sudan Government and it is up to the Government to decide whether or not it still needs the Mission’s presence,” he said. He pointed out that Sudan had agreed to an extension of the UNMIS mandate to 9th July 2011 in line with its commitment to the implementation of the CPA.

The Foreign Ministry Spokesperson further noted that Sudan is a sovereign state and no one can impose those forces on the country because the UN forces came through invitation of the Sudan Government in the first place. He renewed Sudan’s wishes to see an end to the UNMIS presence in line with the agreements between the two sides.

“UNMIS forces should start packing their things before the end of the Interim Period on 9th July, 2011,” *Al-Sahafa* quotes him as saying.

On the same subject, NCP Information Secretary Ibrahim Gandour told reporters yesterday that the “UNMIS’ mandate could only be renewed with the consent of the Sudan Government.” Speaking to reporters yesterday, he pointed out that the UN Charter itself maintains that the UN could only intervene in a state through consent of that particular state.

Ismail Al-Haj Musa, another prominent NCP member, says UNMIS’ presence without the consent of the Khartoum government would be considered an invasion. He rules out any extension of the Mission’s mandate without government consent.

Taha, Machar meeting postponed for the second time

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 30/05/11 – For the second time, the meeting between VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar has been postponed reportedly due to VP Taha’s busy schedule.

Taha had held talks yesterday with Malik Aggar, the head of the SPLM-North, on a number of issues that included Abyei and the redeployment of the SPLA south of the 1/1/56 line.

In a separate development, *Al-Sahafa* reports that the meeting of the joint military committee due to be held in Addis Ababa yesterday did not take off. Sources say the meeting requires some political clout in addition to the presence of the chiefs of staff of the SAF and the SPLA who have been invited to attend in order to help resolve some of the outstanding issues.

Parliament threatens to endorse SAF invasion of Abyei as a final settlement

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 30/05/11 – Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Samia Ahmed Mohamed, says the National Assembly supports the conduct of a referendum on Abyei but only on condition that the SPLM denounce its “hostile agendas against the north”. She pointed out that the national legislative body may consider endorsing a SAF takeover in Abyei as a final solution to the crisis if the SPLM continues to drag its feet over solutions to the problem.

The Deputy Speaker accused “SPLM members from the Abyei Area” of being used by foreign parties to destabilise Southern Kordofan and to drag the region into war.

Sudanese army appoints military governor for Abyei

Xinhua Khartoum, 30/05/11 - The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has appointed a military governor for the country's disputed oil-rich area of Abyei after the SAF controlled the area on May 20, local *Al-Sudani* daily reported on Monday.

“The SAF has entrusted Brig. Izzeldine Osman to run Abyei Administration,” the daily reported.

The appointed military governor of Abyei called on the humanitarian organizations, public service employees and the citizens who left the area in the wake of the recent incidents to return to the town and resume their normal lives, the report said.

“The area is now completely safe,” the paper quoted the governor as saying after meeting representatives of the area, urging the executive body to return to contribute to the stability of the area.

The governor also met with representatives of the area's civil administration and discussed the role of the community organizations in provision of services for the citizens and steer the agricultural process.

NCP official in charge of the Abyei file Al-Dirdiry Mohamed Ahmed told reporters that the government is open for dialogue and that the African Union will hold a meeting between the two parties to in Addis Ababa on Sunday to resolve the conflict.

Sudan threatens to occupy two more disputed regions

AllAfrica.com Juba, 29/05/11 - The northern Sudanese Army is threatening to seize two more areas along the combustible north-south border, risking war just weeks before southern Sudan is due to split off as a new country, Western and Sudanese officials said Sunday.

According to a letter from the Sudanese military's high command, the northern army, in the next few days, plans to take over Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States, two disputed areas with a long history of conflict that are still bristling with arms.

Local leaders and Western diplomats fear that if the northern army goes through with it, pushing out or forcibly disarming the thousands of fighters allied to the south in these two areas, it could set off a much bigger clash between the northern and southern armies.

Malik Agar, Blue Nile's governor, said Sunday night that northern forces had recently moved “dangerously close” to the bases of southern-allied fighters and that he did not think the southern-allied forces would surrender. “It's like putting a cat in a corner,” Mr. Agar said. “They will fight.”

In the past week, southern leaders have absorbed the loss of Abyei, complaining bitterly about it but deciding not to respond with military force, saying that could jeopardize all that they had sacrificed for.

On Sunday, southern leaders indicated that they would not fight over Blue Nile or Southern Kordofan either.

“It is not our priority now to get involved in a war,” said Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the information minister for the government of southern Sudan. He also said high-level negotiations were about to begin in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, over several of these border issues. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/30/world/africa/30sudan.html>).

Government censures Clooney's statements on war crimes in Abyei

The Citizen Khartoum, 30/05/11 – The Sudan Government has slammed statements by actor-activist and sponsor of the Satellite Sentinel Project, George Clooney, in which he affirmed that the government perpetrated war crimes when the army took over the Abyei region.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Khaled Musa described the statements as devoid of the truth, pointing out that UNMIS that is operating in the region did not mention these accusations. He also criticised Clooney over his silence on an SPLA attack on UNMIS troops and the SAF in Abyei. The foreign ministry Spokesperson pointed out that Clooney had used his fame to spread sedition between the two parties and by pushing for a separation vote in southern Sudan.

Khaled affirmed that such “false propaganda and media pressures” by the film star would not deter the government from going ahead in fulfilling its commitments towards the peace process nor would it weaken national will to make concession that infringe on national sovereignty.

NCP discusses constitution, Abyei

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 30/05/11 – The Political Sector at the NCP convened yesterday to discuss the permanent Constitution of Sudan and the issue of Abyei, according to NCP Information Secretary Ibrahim Gandour. In response to the recent statements by the SPLM's Deng Alor saying that Abyei would be declared southern Sudanese territory on independence in 9th July, Gandour pointed out that the statements only concern Deng Alor and are a clear violation of the CPA and the Abyei Protocol that give the people of Abyei the right to chose to either be part of the north or south of Sudan.

Solutions to Abyei lie in the protocols, PCP's Hassan Turabi

Al-Sahafa Doha, 30/05/11 – The Secretary-General of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi has cautioned government to “beware of an uprising of the hungry.”

Addressing reporters in Doha where he is attending a Darfur Stakeholders' Conference, Al-Turabi warned of a deterioration of the economic situation after 9th July 2011 as the north is set to lose revenue generated from the oil field in southern Sudan. This, he projects, would affect the masses who would then demand regime change.

On Abyei, he said that the Abyei Protocol carries solutions to the problems of the region. He revealed that there was an initiative proposed to resolve the problem before the recent attack but this, he adds, was rejected by the government.

Federal government to be dissolved within 40 days

Al-Tayyar Kassala, 30/05/11 – Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail (also a senior NCP official) says the federal government would be dissolved in the wake of the independence of southern Sudan on 9th July. He said that a new broad-based government would then be formed in the north with a wider political representation but fewer cabinet positions.

Speaking yesterday to Cairo-based *Nile Television*, the aide revealed that the new government would be based on a three-fold strategy covering a permanent constitution in which all political forces and civil society organisations would participate in drafting, and on establishing strong relations with the south and other neighbouring countries as well as with other countries around the world in a manner that would better serve Sudan's interest.

GoSS mulls alternatives to current oil export facilities

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Juba, 30/05/11 – GoSS Investment Minister Oyay Deng Ajack, says his government is awaiting the final decision on studies carried out to explore possibilities of using alternatives to the oil pipelines passing through the north. He told reporters yesterday that his government would not stop the oil companies from operating but would review the policies in place for oil exploration and production and the contracts signed with these companies.

Other Highlights

Authorities release PCP officials

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 30/05/11 – Authorities released yesterday two members of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) detained since January this year, revealed PCP Secretary for Human Rights, Hassan Abdallah Al-Hassan. In a press release yesterday, the party disclosed that Al-Amin Abdulrazig and Dahab Moahmed Saleh were released yesterday but said that five more party members remain in detention without trial and without access to legal counsel.

The party further noted that Justice Minister Mohamed Dousa only named a prosecutor for their case some three weeks ago and that the party has already requested him to either order the release of the detainees or allow them access to legal counsel. “Unfortunately, we were disappointed by the state prosecutor who paid not heed to our requests despite our daily visits to his office,” the PCP said in its press release.

Parties close to a deal on Darfur – Nafei

Al-Rai Al-Aam Doha, 30/05/11 – The Darfur Stakeholders Conference in Doha continued in its third day yesterday and is due to close later today. Speaking to *Sudan Television*, Nafei Ali Nafei expressed confidence that the time was right for the parties to sign the Darfur peace document. He said that “Peace is close at hand,” he said as he revealed that he had met with the mediators and there is hope that a deal may be signed by tomorrow.

UN rights envoy arriving in Sudan tomorrow

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 29/05/11 - A United Nations rights investigator assigned to Sudan is scheduled to arrive tomorrow (30/05/11) in the country in preparation for his final report before the end of his mandate next September.

The Rapporteur of Sudan’s Advisory Council for Human Rights Ahmed Idris said that the work of the UN independent expert Mohamed Chande Othman begins Monday through meetings with government bodies and visits to Abyei, Juba, Malakal and Darfur.

Idris stressed that Sudan wants to terminate the mandate of the independent expert citing lack of reasons that necessitate his presence and pointed out that the humanitarian situation in the country has become quite stable.

United Nations Mission in Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200