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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

SPLM says NCP reserves on four points on Addis framework Agreement

Al-Sahafa 6/7/11 – The SPLM (North) said the NCP held reservations on four points in the framework agreement signed in Addis Ababa and the reservations were intimated to the AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki.

Member of SPLM negotiating team and head of cessation of hostilities committee Brig. Ramdan Hassan Nimir told the newspaper yesterday that Mbeki informed them that President Al-Bashir has reservations on four points in the agreement: no need for presence of a third party in the talks between the SPLM (North) and the NCP, issues included in the framework agreement are not part of AUHIP-sponsored negotiations in Addis Ababa, SPLM (North) is not registered, the NCP wants to discuss specific agenda in the Addis.

Al-Ayyam 6/7/11 reports the SPLM has accused President Al-Bashir of hampering efforts to reach an agreement on cessation of hostilities by reneging on the framework agreement on southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile states.

The NCP voiced reservations on the political side of the agreement and accepted the security side because accepting the political side of the framework agreement would mean recognition of the SPLM (North) which has no juristic personality in the North, NCP mobilization secretary, Haj Majid Siwar said, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 6/7/11.

Sudan Rejects International Pressure to Extend UNMIS Mandate

Sudan Vision 6/7/11 - High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton affirmed to Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti yesterday, the keenness of EU to continue to establish close relations with Sudan, calling for a continuing UN presence after July 9 to ensure stability between the southern and northern Sudan and to enable the parties to live together in peace and security.

Ashton welcomed the signature of an agreement on June 28 between the government of Sudan and the SPLM on the security arrangements in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, urging both parties to start implementing the said agreement as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese government said yesterday that Sudan wants the withdrawal of peacekeepers from the country after the secession of the South, rejecting international pressure to extend the mandate of the mission.

Senior Sudanese official, Rabie Abdul Ati ruled out any extension, saying that the police and military forces could handle security in flashpoint border areas.

" We are not in a position to accept any forces after the secession of southern Sudan, according to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), he said, adding " The Sudanese armed and security forces are capable of realizing peace and security in the north of Sudan", indicating that the said decision is determined by the Sudan and not by Western countries.

Government confirms southerners will be allowed nine months to adjust

Akhtar Al-Youm 6/7/11 – State Minister for Information Ms. Sana Hamad Al-Awad told reporters that the Sudanese Government would allow southerners in the North nine months after July the 9th to adjust their status, regardless of the stance of the GoSS towards northerners in the South.

She said their information was that northerners in the South have been expelled.

SG stops over Khartoum Airport en route to Juba

Akhir Lahza 6/7/11 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that UNSG Ban Ki-moon would stop over Khartoum airport on Friday before proceeding to Juba to take part in South's independence celebrations.

Ambassador Rahamtullah Mohamed Osman told reporters yesterday that Ki-moon would hold talks at the airport with a government delegation on developments in the country. He said the North and South Governments would sign, immediately after the birth of the new nation, an agreement on political cooperation in presence of Presidents Al-Bashir and Kiir.

UN official warns north against future attacks on independent S. Sudan

Sudan Tribune website 5/7/11 - As South Sudan prepares to become Africa's newest nation in a few days' time, a senior UN official has warned the Khartoum regime against future military aggression on the former, saying any form of attack would contravene international treaties.

“Everyone is aware that South Sudan will become independent on July 9. Any form of military attack on the region from North Sudan as it has happened in the past on the South as a country will be contrary to international treaties,” David Gressly, the UN regional coordinator for Southern Sudan told journalists at a briefing on Tuesday.

Gressly, also outlined some of the notable achievements of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) throughout his six-year and half year tenure at the helm, saying over 2,800 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines have either been removed or destroyed, including nearly 590,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance across the 10 states of the semi-autonomous region.

“Over \$200m was invested in this vital exercise and as a result of their combined efforts, over 18,000 kilometers of cleared roads have been opened up across southern Sudan to facilitate the revival of commerce and other sectors of the regional economy,” said Gressly, who is set to become the regional director for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in West Africa.

He further lauded efforts of the UNMIS peace keepers especially in the establishment of the ceasefire joint military committee, a body said to have played an instrumental role in the disengagement of the two armies and reportedly monitored the removal of all Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) units from southern Sudan. This process, according to Gressly, was completed in early 2008.

UNMIS, its regional coordinator emphasised, played an instrumental role in conflict mitigation as an intermediary between the two CPA parties, each time conflict situations aroused, citing two

incidences of fighting in Malakal, the Upper Nile state capital in 2006 and 2009.

“In both instances, UNMIS used its good offices to help de-escalate tension between SAF [Sudan Armed Forces] and the SPLA [Sudan Peoples Liberation Army] units and restore peace and normalcy to the situation on the ground in that city,” Gressly said.

Al Bashir directs continuation of southerners working in oil sector

Sudan Vision 6/7/11 - Minister of Petroleum; Dr. Lual Deng Achuekm, announced the President's consent, permitting southern employees in Oil Ministry, to retain their jobs, till oil related outstanding issues are resolved.

While addressing the fare-well celebration organized by the Ministry, in the honor of the southern employees, he said that he proposed to the President of the Republic; Al Bashir, prompting him to authorize the southern employees retaining their jobs, till an agreement is reached over oil sector management.

The minister called on the southern employees in his Ministry, as well as those in private sector involved in oil sector, to stick to their jobs, drawing their attention to the their experiences, being a fundamental asset to the expected nation.

The Minister affirmed that, the South's oil is still to be exported through the north in the near future, which requires a common understanding from both parties; especially that Al Bashir and Kiir are on the same wavelength, regarding the need for both nations to hold their ties and to cooperate with each other. In contrast, he assured that northern employees in the south will receive their financial dues, estimated at \$75 million, owed by the termination of their jobs, and which had already been deposited in Qatar Bank, demonstrating these being in safe hands.

Lual expressed hopes that both countries would live in peace and fraternity, without which none of them would be able to achieve its renaissance, pointing out that both would be confronted with numerous challenges, indicating that they share the longest common borders in the world (2800Km), and that it is almost impossible for the existing social and economic ties to be broken, clarifying that the highest oil reserves resides in the overlapped territories.

South Sudan plans to review oil contracts after independence

Sudan Tribune website 5/7/11 - The government of the oil-producing region of South Sudan on Tuesday July 5 said it will review all the contracts it said were signed by the Khartoum-based government with international companies specialising in oil exploration before the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"The policy of the government of South Sudan is every clear. We will not terminate any contract if there are no contractual concerns, but we will have to review them in order to see possibilities of working together with the companies under new policy, because these contracts were signed when Sudan was one country", said Garang Diing Akuong, minister of energy and mining in the government of South Sudan in an interview with Sudan Tribune on Tuesday.

The minister's statement confirmed a statement made by the minister of investment in the government of South Sudan in which he was quoted by the CNN as saying the government of

the new nation would review oil contracts with international companies.

"Yes, comrade Oyai was right. The government of South Sudan as I have said earlier would review all the contracts because some contractors under these current contractual arrangements by the government of Khartoum are given large areas. Others are given small portions. This has been an issue of concern. So for these reasons we shall review all contracts", explained minister Akuong...

Khartoum court orders journalist to pay fine or face imprisonment

Al-Sudani 6/7/11 – Khartoum North Court has fined the editor-in-chief of Al-Jarida daily newspaper a sum of SDG 5000 and also ordered a fine of SDG 2000 against journalist Ms. Fatima Ghazali. According to the ruling, each person would serve a jail term of one month if the fine is not paid.

The Court's ruling came in the backdrop of suit filed against journalist Ms. Fatima Ghazali for writing an article raising the case of Ms. Safia Ishaq who was allegedly arrested and raped by some elements of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS).

Ms. Ghazali, however, preferred imprisonment to payment of the fine.

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