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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

President Al-Bashir meets SRSG Menkerios

In a meeting with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios yesterday, President Al-Bashir reiterated his commitment and that of the new government to the complete implementation of the CPA, **Al-Sahafa** reports. He also said that the government is committed to continuing dialogue with the Darfur armed groups through the Doha forum.

Following the meeting, Menkerios told the press that they discussed arrangements for the formation and the announcement of the new government of national unity and arrangements for the formation of the referendum commission. He said that the partners to the CPA are engaged in discussions of pre-referendum issues and have made clear progress in these talks.

The SRSG revealed he would soon be travelling to New York to participate at a forum on the achievements in the CPA implementation and preparations for the referendum. **Al-Ahdath** reports meanwhile that Menkerios would also present his report to the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Sudan.

In a separate meeting with Thabo Mbeki yesterday, Al-Bashir said that the parties to the CPA have concluded preparations for the formation of the southern Sudan and Abyei referendum commissions, **Akhir Lahza** reports. He said that these commissions would likely set to work next month.

Mbeki underlined the need for a comprehensive peace in Darfur ahead of the southern Sudan referendum. He assured that the AU Panel that he heads would encourage the direct efforts of the government and the armed groups of Darfur towards that end.

Al-Sahafa quotes Mbeki as saying that discussions on pre-referendum issues would take place this month.

Sudan's Bashir unlikely to attend AU summit in Uganda, says Malwal

Sudantribune.com Turalei, 08/07/10 - A former adviser to Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir said the latter will most likely skip the African Union (AU) summit to be held in Uganda next month amid controversy on the issue of invitation extended to him.

Over the weekend a statement from the office of Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni, said that Bashir was not invited to the meeting and that Sudan was advised to dispatch other officials instead.

Today the Ugandan government backtracked on its earlier statement revealing that an invitation was already sent to the Bashir through the Sudanese embassy in Kampala on April 6.

"We are under obligation to invite every head of state of the AU," the Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary James Mugume told Kampala based Daily Monitor newspaper. "In fact President Museveni signed invitations to all heads of government, including Sudan on March 17, 2010 and Khartoum received their invitation on April 6".

Mugume said that a press aide at the Ugandan presidency misconstrued Museveni's comments at the meeting with ICC president San Hyun Song, when he reportedly said that he doubted whether President Bashir would attend the Summit to mean that Uganda had not invited Sudan.

Bona Malwal, a former adviser to Bashir, in a statement obtained by **Sudan Tribune**, lauded the invitation extended to Bashir by Kampala.

"Although the statement was attributed to have originated from the office of president of Uganda, I did not believe it was released with knowledge of President Museveni and ministry of foreign affairs. This was why I had to contact Sudanese embassy in Uganda and foreign ministry in

Khartoum," Malwal said.

"My contacts with these institutions and officials established that President Bashir has been invited to attend the upcoming summit," he said but disclosed that post-elections engagements may mean that the Sudanese head of state will send another official to represent him.

FVP Salva Kiir to meet US VP Biden in Nairobi

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum has revealed that FVP Salva Kiir would be holding meeting in Nairobi today with US Vice-President Joe Biden to discuss the implementation of the CPA, the referendum and post-referendum support for Khartoum and Juba, **Akhir Lahza** reports.

No ruling on elections re-run for CES and Unity

The National Court of Appeals has denied reports that it has issued a ruling for a re-run of the gubernatorial polls for CES and Unity states, reports **Khartoum Monitor**. Hadi Mohamed Ahmed, the Chairman of the NEC's Technical Committee, said that contrary to a recent story on **Khartoum Monitor**, the NEC has not received any ruling on the said polls.

35% turnout in by-elections – NEC

The NEC has concluded sorting and counting of ballots in the re-elections and suspended elections and is soon expected to announce the results, **Al-Ahdath** reports. Sources privy to the proceedings intimate that NCP candidates have again swept most of the constituencies. The sources say that voter turnout has fluctuated between 35-39% in most constituencies.

SSLA strips SPLM-DC members of immunity

The Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly has striped four members of parliament on the SPLM-DC ticket of immunity citing suspicions of implication in the Panyikang killing in Upper Nile State in which seven people, including a paramount chief were killed last month, reports **The Citizen**. The decision was reached at a closed session of the regional legislative body yesterday after the Acting Minister for Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development tabled a motion demanding such a step be taken on the MPs based on a letter by the Acting Interior Minister seeking legal advice on how investigations could be carried against sitting MPs.

Onyoti Adigo, the head of the SPLM-DC Parliamentary Caucus at the SSLA and himself a victim of the measures taken against his party, countered saying that they were stripped of immunity "only on political motives from a House that has little opposition."

Talks between NCP and SPLM adjourned

Former Foreign Minister Deng Alor says the new government may probably be announced next week, **Al-Ahdath** reports. Alor revealed yesterday that consultations at the levels of the joint NCP-SPLM committee have been adjourned pending the return of prominent SPLM figures currently in Nairobi for talks between FVP Kiir and US VP Joe Biden.

A source privy to the proceedings intimates that the two sides have reached agreement on most issues pertaining to the formation of the new government and would resume consultations over the formation of the Abyei Referendum Commission within the next few days. The two sides, he adds, would also be consulting on the nominations for the Human Rights Commission.

SPLA: Galwak Gai's rebellion in Unity State over

MirayaFM.org 08/06/10 - The SPLA has announced the end of Galwak Gai's rebellion in Unity State. Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol said that Colonel

Galwak Gai, a defected SPLA officer, has escaped to the Higlieig area. Kuol noted that the SPLA cannot pursue Gai into the area as it is controlled by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), adding that for the security of the country the SPLA will not intrude into the jurisdiction of another military force.

Kuol said that Gai escaped from the state with about 56 men. He pointed out that the SPLA has killed more than 20 and captured 32 of Galwak's 200 men in confrontations. The SPLA Spokesperson further said that Gai's remaining forces have fled to surrounding villages, observing that some are injured.

PCP member blasts Minnawi

"(SLM's) Mini Minnawi's presence at the Republican Palace is a drain on state budget," says Kamal Omar, the Political Secretary at the Popular Congress Party (PCP). *Al-Ahdath* quotes him as saying that the SLM has been politically isolated since the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in 2005 and has failed to realise its objectives. He pointed out that the government is now negotiating peace with the Justice and Liberation Movement because "it is looking for new players since Minnawi has failed to positively contribute to ending the Darfur crisis."

Kamal expressed surprise over recent statements by the SLM leader in which he described the PCP as part of a "Satanic Triad" responsible for exacerbate the situation in Darfur alongside the NCP and the JEM.

US assails Sudan for repression, lack of rights

AFP Washington, 08/06/10 - The United States voiced new criticism Tuesday against Sudan for an increase in repression and a "deteriorating environment" for civil and political rights in the African nation.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said a number of incidents in recent weeks have increased US concern, including the arrest of opposition leaders, the censoring of opposition newspapers and violence against its employees.

Also worrisome has been a government ban on human rights workers leaving the country to participate in a Kampala conference on the International Criminal Court, and violence against demonstrators.

"The United States government expresses its concern over a pattern of increasing political repression and the deteriorating environment for civil and political rights in Khartoum, including the arrest of opposition leaders, journalists and peaceful demonstrators," Crowley said.

Crowley also expressed Washington's concern over "the continued harassment of journalists, human rights advocates and nongovernmental organizations in Sudan and reminds the government of Sudan of its international obligations to respect human rights, including freedoms of assembly and of the press."

"We call on the government of Sudan to ensure that those in custody are afforded due process and receive access to medical care. We also call for the Sudanese security agencies to cease any censorship of media," he said.

Report blames Swedish oil firm for Sudan war crimes

AFP Stockholm, 08/06/10 - A consortium led by Swedish Lundin Petroleum is partly to blame for war crimes committed in Sudan between 1997 and 2003, a report by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS) charged Tuesday.

ECOS, an umbrella group of European organisations "working for peace and justice in Sudan", said it believed Lundin and its consortium partners PETRONAS Carigali Overseas from Malaysia

and OMV Exploration from Austria "may have been complicit in the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity" in Sudan.

Lundin Petroleum, previously called Lundin Oil, denied the allegations.

The 100-page report said Lundin's consortium -- which also included the Sudanese state-owned oil company Sudapet -- had signed a contract with Khartoum for oil exploitation in a concession area called Block 5A in the south "that was not at that time under full government control".

"The start of oil exploitation set off a vicious war in the area. Between 1997 and 2003, international crimes were committed on a large scale in what was essentially a military campaign by the government of Sudan to secure and take control of the oil fields in Block 5A," it charged.

The crimes -- including widespread "killing of civilians, rape of women, abduction of children, torture and forced displacements" -- were mainly committed by the Sudanese army and its main opponent the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

The ECOS report -- written with the support of European Union-funded NGO-network Fatal Transactions -- however argued that the Lundin consortium had set the wheels in motion by signing its contract with Khartoum "without any guarantees that human rights and international law would be respected".

The report also charged that the Swedish, Austrian and Malaysian governments had "failed in their international obligations to prevent human rights violations and international crimes".

It called on them to investigate whether the consortium members knew or should have known that their activities "assisted those who were responsible for gross human rights abuses".

According to ECOS, some 12,000 people were killed or died from hunger, exhaustion and conflict-related diseases in the Block 5A from 1997 to 2003, while around 160,000 people were forcibly displaced.

In an open letter to Lundin Petroleum shareholders posted on the company's website, Chairman Ian Lundin insisted the report presented no new evidence of any wrongdoings, pointing out the company had refuted similar charges in the past.

"We again categorically refute all the allegations and inferences of wrongdoing attributed to Lundin Petroleum in the report. We strongly feel that our activities contributed to peace and development in Sudan," he wrote.

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

Five southern Sudanese on the referendum commission

Khartoum Monitor reports that five out of the nine nominees to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission are southerners. The Commission will be chaired by Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil with Chan Rek Madut as Deputy, sources report. The four other southern Sudanese nominees to the commission are Paulino Wanawilla (the Legal Advisor to FVP Kiir), Deng Awur (the Dean of the School of Law at Juba University), Juwal Chuang and Setti Abyei.

The other nominees from northern Sudan are Suad Ibrahim Eissa, Tal-el-Sirr Mohamed Saleh and Tarig Osman.

SPLM hails Presidency's nominees for Southern Referendum Commission

MirayaFM.org 08/06/10 – The SPLM has welcomed the Presidency's submission of nominees for the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission to the National Assembly for approval.

Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, and leading SPLM member, Atem Garang, described the move as an important step towards the full implementation of the CPA.

He said that the commission's candidates were approved by the two partners, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM, adding that five members will be from the south and four from the north. He added that the commissioner will be from the north while a southerner will be deputy commissioner.

Garang further said that the nominees have been submitted for parliamentary approval in accordance to the constitution and ruled out any parliamentary obstacles in the nominees' endorsement.

Misseriya warn against nominating southerner to head the Abyei Commission

Tribal leaders of the Misseriya have asked the Presidency not to accept an SPLM demand for the chairmanship of the Abyei Referendum Commission. **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports that the Misseriya see the demand as an indication that there would be no impartiality in the conduct of the referendum.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Babo Nimir, a prominent Misseriya parliamentarian, pointed out that the SPLM has no legal rights to the chairmanship of that commission. He said that the Misseriya would not accept a southern Sudanese leader for the commission and are demanding a neutral personality instead.

No chance for unity with the CPA partners at the helms – Umma

Umma Party leader Sadig Al-Mahdi says his party would not participate in the next government. Participation in the government would be tantamount to “political suicide,” **Al-Sahafa** quotes him as saying at an interview.

He added that his party had no intentions to join the government unless agreement is reached on “national programme that is not based on the elections results”.

The Umma Party leader expressed doubts that unity could be realised with the NCP and SPLM controlling the country. “Current relations between the NCP and the SPLM are characterised by an actual cold war and a hot war by proxy,” he said.

There is no place for rhetoric on southern Sudanese independence because the south is not colonised in order for it to demand independence, said he.

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