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Post-Referendum Monitor

VP Taha calls for security in Abyei

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/03/11 – VP Ali Osman Mohamed Taha has called on the Minister of Interior and the Director-General of Police to continue with efforts to defuse the tensions in the Abyei area in order to stop the bloodshed and loss of property until a political solution is reached. The VP was briefed by the two on the outcome of the recent joint meeting between the CPA partners on Abyei in which the two sides agreed to adhere to the Kadugli Agreement and to form a standing committee to monitor development on the issues.

GoSS criticises UNMIS' performance on civilian protection

Al-Wifaq Juba, 07/03/11 – GoSS Information Minister and official spokesperson says UNMIS has fall short in implementing its mandate in terms of civilian protection in southern Sudan. The GoSS and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) would discuss these issues to decide on a position on the future of the UN mission.

“There is no need for the Mission’s existence if it is not prepared to protect civilians in their proximity,” he said.

In a related development, SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer says the UNMIS’ mandate in Abyei is not clearly defined and that those forces are not capable of providing security in the Abyei Area.

Meanwhile the GoSS Minister for SPLA Affairs, Nhial Deng, has described as “successful” the recent meeting in Abyei that culminated in the Abyei Agreement of 4th March. He noted that the meeting agreed on the formation of a mechanism to implement the resolutions of the Kadugli Agreement to ensure stability in the Abyei Area. Deng said there were some obstacles to the deployment of the JIUs in the region and this, he adds, has reflected negatively on the situation. He pointed out that the presence of some Misseriya youths within the ranks of the JIUs deployed to the area has also negatively impacted the security situation because these elements were party to the conflict in the area.

We have no right to use force in Abyei - UN

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 07/03/11 – UNMIS has declined to comment on demands by the SPLM for the use of force in Abyei, saying that their mandate is to monitor the implementation of the CPA and that they have no right to use force as requested by the SPLM. An informed source reports that the UN forces can only use force in self-defence. The anonymous source was also quoted as having condemned the attack on part of the UNMIS compound in Abyei. UNMIS has deployed reinforcements to beef up its military presence in the area, he said.

Meanwhile in a statement yesterday, UNMIS has welcomed the recent Abyei Agreement between the two parties and has called for restraint.

UNMIS welcomes Abyei Agreement

Al-Tayyar Khartoum, 07/03/11 – UNMIS has welcomed the 4 March 2011 Abyei Agreement in which the CPA partners agreed to adhere to the provisions of the Kadugli Agreements of the 13th and 17th of January 2011.

“This agreement is an important step. The recent clashes in the Abyei Area have highlighted the

challenges still to be overcome by both sides and I expect a speedy and effective implementation of the agreed measures,” said SRSR Haile Menkerios in a press statement yesterday. He said the UN stands ready to facilitate the process as requested by both parties to the agreement.

Misseriya warn against blocking movement of millions of cattle south

Al-Tayyar Abyei, 07/03/11 – The Misseriya are accusing the SPLA of using non-Dinka elements to destabilise the Abyei area by provoking the Misseriya.

Mukhtar Babo Nimir, a prominent Misseriya leader, also warned the SPLM against blocking the seasonal migration route south to the Bahr-el-Arab for Misseriya cattle. He pointed out that such action may subject their livestock estimated at about 10 million heads of cattle to thirst. Nimir says they have indeed lost about 700 heads of cattle recently to similar incidents. “We give the SPLM one month to allow us passage or else they would bear responsibility for any harm that shall befall our livestock,” he warned.

High security budget is paramount, says SSLA

Gurtong.org Juba, 05/03/11 - If the upcoming nation of South Sudan is to be internationally recognized by 9th July then a lion’s share of its main budget on security is a priority above all said the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) on Friday.

SSLA passed the first reading of the 2011 finance budget mid last month with much of it being allocated to security. During the reading, 5.7 billion Sudanese pounds (2,078,050,000 \$) of the total budget was allocated to security.

The Committee for Economy, Development and Finance Chairperson Hon. Bari Wanji explained to Gurtong why security was allocated greater bid of the budget.

With much capital needed for nation building, expectations that much of the budget could have been allocated for development becomes untrue.

“If much is allocated to development, Northerners will kick our strong secession. You still need a big defence to defend your secession”, Bari said.

Bari said that the need to address security in the region is a concern though many issues in South Sudan need priority. He said that the Government of Southern Sudan would like to see that its people are well protected.

SSLA will on Monday next week table the budget for second reading. The legislatures failed to deliberate upon it last Tuesday following irregularities in the draft presented to the house hence postponement by the house speaker.

Machar opposes all-out war against forces of George Athor

Sudantribune.com Juba, 06/03/11 - The Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar Teny, has publicly advised against carrying out an all-out war against the forces loyal to the renegade General George Athor, saying he preferred pursuit of peaceful dialogue with the rebel leader.

Machar explained his view at a prayer gathering organized on Saturday in memory of hundreds of civilians killed in Fangak County by forces of George Athor in January. The prayer was conducted at the residence of the minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and representative of Fangak County in the parliament, James Kok Ruei. Several senior government officials and members of parliament representing all the ten states of South Sudan attended the prayer.

GoSS Presidential Advisor for Legal Affairs, Telar Deng Ring, while speaking at the occasion, called on the government of South Sudan to launch decisive military action against forces of George Athor. Telar said the offensive should be carried out before the rainy season and crush George Athor's forces. There were also calls to withdraw the amnesty offered to the rebel leader by the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit.

However, Vice President Riek Machar, during the same occasion, reiterated his opposition to such solution, and warned that the course of all-out war as an option would in the process turn into a tribal war that would engulf the whole of Jonglei State and spread to other states.

He said this was not because Athor's forces can overwhelm the SPLA, but reading the situation, the matter would no longer confine itself to fighting Athor's forces, saying it can turn into tribal confrontations and mass killing of innocent civilians. "Today you may think it is the SPLA fighting George Athor's forces, but tomorrow it can turn into tribal war which can spread and become difficult to contain," he warned.

South Sudan militia clashes kill at least 56-army

Reuters Khartoum, 07/03/11 - At least 56 people were killed in clashes between militia fighters and soldiers in south Sudan's oil-producing Upper Nile state, the army said on Monday.

Militia fighters killed two southern government soldiers on Sunday morning and in an army counter-attack, 57 militiamen and seven soldiers were killed, southern army (SPLA) spokesman Philip Aguer said.

South Sudan army says it clashed with SPLM-DC militia

Sudantribune.com Abye, 06/03/11 - Heavy fighting involving SPLA forces and armed elements the SPLA claims are affiliated to opposition party SPLM-DC broke out in Upper Nile state on Sunday according to military officials and local politicians.

The SPLM-DC have denied that they are in anyway related to the militia involved in the fighting or have affiliations to any other armed groups in the South.

Sunday's fighting took place in a village near Owuac locality in an area in the southern state of Upper Nile predominantly home to members of SPLM-DC leader Lam Akol's Shilluk ethnic group.

The government of Upper Nile have identified a man known as Oliny responsible for the attack.

Speaking to *Sudan Tribune* from Malakal, capital of Upper Nile state's minister of information, Peter Lam Both, said that the militia was loyal to Lam Akol but gave no further details of the clash.

SPLA Spokesperson Phillip Aguer confirmed the clash did take place but did name the militia group involved. "Yes, there was a fighting in one of the villages around Owuac between 11am to 12pm between our forces and armed elements identified to be associated with a pro-Khartoum based government militia. It is Khartoum that supports this militia group with arms I am told associated also with Lam Akol", Aguer said.

South Sudan sets conditions for north debt help

Reuters Addis Ababa, 06/03/11 - South Sudan will help the north get relief on around \$38 billion in debt, as long as the north "cooperates" on a border dispute and other issues in the countdown to the country's split, a southern official said.

"We are ready to join the north in joint efforts for debt relief," said Pagan Amum, secretary general

of the south's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), at the end of a week-long meeting with northern leaders in Ethiopia.

"But our participation is conditional to the cooperation of the north in all the other areas including Abyei, as well as also assuming the redemption of the Sudanese currency as we change the currency," he told *Reuters*.

Other Highlights

Central Bank Governor resigns

Reuters Khartoum, 06/03/11 – Central Bank of Sudan Governor Sabir Mohammad al-Hassan has resigned, the bank said on Sunday. The departure of the long-serving governor is likely to cause dismay in a country facing the double challenge of an economic crisis and the imminent loss of about a quarter of its territory.

"The economic situation now is precarious and the country is moving towards secession," former state minister of finance Abda al-Mahdi told *Reuters*.

"The departure of Dr Sabir, who is quite well respected in economic circles, will create anxiety in an already difficult situation," said Mahdi, who heads the economic consultancy UNICONS.

The central bank issued a statement saying Hassan, 65, had decided to step down because of his age and the arduous nature of the job which was having an impact on his health and family. The statement said the governor "denies reports that disputes between the economic team led to this resignation."

The central bank did not name a replacement. One commentator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there had been reports Hassan had grown increasingly frustrated with the country's economic situation and the measures he was having to take to preserve the country's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

Sudan names new central bank governor: state media

Reuters Khartoum, 07/03/11 - Sudan on Monday named former state finance minister Mohamed Kheir al-Zubeir as the governor of its central bank, replacing Sabir Mohammad al-Hassan who said he was resigning from the post on Sunday.

"Mohamed Kheir al-Zubeir appointed governor for Bank of Sudan," Sudan's state news agency Suna reported in a text message alert, using a common name for the central bank.

The bank said Sabir Mohammad al-Hassan, 65, was stepping down because of his age and the arduous nature of the job.

Sudan rejects US Congress' conditions for removal from terror list

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/03/11 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says it categorically rejects any new conditions from the US Congress to scrap its name from the US list of state sponsors of

terrorism. Ministry Spokesperson Khaled Musa told the press yesterday that the US Congress' position is in variance with the official announced position of the US Administration on the issue and not in the spirit of the understandings reached on the issue.

Khaled claims there are some “negative” moves by some SPLM activists in coordination with some members of the US Congress and US government officials seeking to peg approval to remove Sudan from the US terror list to the full implementation of the CPA, including the Abyei issue. He said however that such pressures would neither ease Sudan's resolve to implement the CPA nor would it compel the country to take measures that are not in the interest of the people.

Authorities warn against illegal marches

Al-Rai Al-Aam et al Khartoum, 07/03/11 – The Spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior has revealed there are some elements in the country that are looking for opportunities under any guise to cause insecurity and chaos in the country. Ahmed Imam Al-Tihami assured a consultative meeting with media outlets yesterday that the police are capable of maintaining order. He said that the police is not against standing with the people but believes this should be done within the confines of the law.

The NCP has meanwhile downplayed calls from the opposition for a march of solidarity with the uprisings in some parts of the Arab world, pointing out that their particular situation does not resemble that of Sudan. NCP's Majid Suwar says the political parties have the freedom of expression but should dispense of that freedom within the limits of the law.

On the other hand, the opposition alliance says it intends to stage a peaceful rally at the Abu-Jinzir Square in central Khartoum in solidarity with the uprisings in some Arab states and in protest over the “massacre in Libya”. In a statement issued yesterday, the National Consensus Forces said they have requested permit from the police to allow them stage the rally.

But *Akhir Lahza* reports that the opposition parties have disclosed that the Khartoum State Police has refused to receive their request for a rally on Wednesday.

Police seize arms and munitions in Omdurman

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/03/11 – Acting on a tip-off, the police has managed to uncover a weapons cache in the Oumbada area of Omdurman, says the head of the Criminal Investigation Department, Fahth-el-Rahman Osman. He said that one suspect has been arrested in connection to the weapons cache found buried under the ground and including 4 Kalashnikov rifles, a shotgun and 6,000 rounds of ammunitions, among others.

Price of some bottled water doubles in Juba

Sudantribune.com Juba, 06/03/11 - The price of bottled water in Juba has doubled in recent weeks with the half-litre bottle, initially priced at SDG1 now going for double that price.

Local companies operating in South Sudan have attributed the recent hike in water prices to shortages being experienced across the semi-autonomous region. The development coming less than two months after the region overwhelming voted for its independence due in July.

“Our supply of water has remained constant. What we are experiencing now is due to inadequate supply of water which used to come from neighbouring Uganda. It is wrong for the public to blame us for all these happenings,” an official from Aqua Fontana, only identified as Mohammad told *Sudan Tribune* in an interview.

Most retail shops in Juba town had run out of water by Friday but those who still had stocks from

previous bulk purchases were reaping rewards from the crisis.

While local manufacturers blamed the saga on inadequate supplies, some sections of the population have blamed officials from the ministry of commerce, trade and supplies for failing to adequately address the situation.

Justice Chande starts visit to Sudan with questions on freedom of expression

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/03/11 – Independent Human Rights Expert on Sudan, Justice Chande, held talks with officials at the Human Rights Advisory Council in Khartoum yesterday focusing on the status with regards the freedom of expression, the freedom of association and on gender-based violence. Justice Minister Mohamed Bushara Dousa says Sudan has “nothing to hide” over its human rights record. He said that Justice Chande would present his report to the Human Rights Commission on the basis of his findings during this current visit.

On his part, Undersecretary for Justice, AbdulDayem Al-Zumrawi, said following a meeting with the Independent Human Rights Expert, that Justice Chande had requested to discuss with the Sudan government over their interaction with the UN human rights mechanisms. He also asked questions on the freedom of association and on gender-based violence.

In a related story, *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* quotes Justice Minister Dousa as having described as “unbalanced” Justice Chande’s last report on Sudan to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Dousa pointed out that Chande used “absolute terms” based on the facts surrounding the arrest of the opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP) leader Hassan Turabi’s arrest and the suspension from print of the party’s mouthpiece, the *Rai Al-Shaab* newspaper.

Khartoum said committed to negotiate Darfur status in Doha - mediator

Sudantribune.com Doha, 06/03/11 – The Sudan government has renewed its commitment to negotiate the administrative status of Darfur region with the rebel groups in Doha, said the Joint Chief Mediator.

"Amin Hassan Omer told us that the government did not intend to ask the removal of the administrative status of Darfur from the agendas of peace talks," Djibril Bassole told *Sudan Tribune* on Sunday.

"We urge the Parties to consider the proposals submitted by the mediation to resolve the pending issues in order to achieve progress in the talks," Bassole further said.

The Government of Sudan and rebel Liberation and Equality Movement (LJM) failed to reach a compromise on the thorny issue of the administrative status for Darfur.

Khartoum also seeks to conclude as quick as possible the Doha talks with the rebel groups before launching the Darfur Political Process (DPP) which will focus on reconciliation and dialogue among social, tribal and political forces in the restive region.

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