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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

UN Chief expresses concern over southern Sudan violence

VoAnews.com - UNSG Ban Ki-moon says he is deeply concerned about the deadly attacks in the Upper Nile region in southern Sudan that have killed 25 people and displaced dozens more. Mr. Ban said in a statement Sunday that the GoSS should "re-double its efforts to ensure the protection of civilians" and work with the U.N. to resolve the root causes of the violence.

Military officials in southern Sudan said the clashes began Friday when heavily armed fighters attacked an ethnic Dinka village in Bony-Thiang, killing 20 civilians. The officials said Dinka villagers retaliated Saturday by attacking a Shilluk tribal settlement nearby, killing five people.

Also Sunday, the World Health Organization warned that another part of southern Sudan is at high risk for epidemics because of attacks by Ugandan rebels. The agency said the health care system in Ezo County (Sudan) has been disrupted by repeated attacks in the area from the rebel Lord's Resistance Army.

A WHO spokesman in Geneva, Paul Garwood, said the LRA pillaged health care facilities in August and made it impossible for doctors to carry out an immunization program. He said this has left many young children susceptible to measles, polio and other life-threatening diseases.

Sudan to seek clarification from US envoy over new US policy

Sudan is determined to seek clarification from US Special Envoy Scott Gration on what incentives and pressures the new US policy on the country holds, **Akhir Lahza** reports.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor said that Special Envoy Gration is expected in Khartoum on Wednesday and would brief the government on these issues. The Minister refused to brand US policies on Sudan as "contradicting".

NCP accuses SPLM of trying to weaken the north

The head of the NCP's foreign relations committee, Mustafa Osman Ismail, says his party will be the first to support the newly signed SPLM-Umma agreement if it is in the interest of security and stability in the country, **Al-Ahdath** reports. In press statements yesterday, Osman pointed out that the SPLM's strategy is based on weakening northern Sudan and the NCPA through provoking states like the US to impose sanctions and isolate northern Sudan.

Nafei Ali Nafei accuses SPLA of destabilizing southern Sudan

Nafei Ali Nafei, Assistant to the President of the Republic, has downplayed recent accusations by SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Deim that the NCP and the SPLM-DC were training a 3,500-strong militia force in the White Nile area to distribute weapons to Shilluk tribesmen of Upper Nile State in order to destabilize the south. **Al-Ahdath** reports that Nafei pointed out that these were baseless accusations and that the SPLA could not hide the weapons they provide to the armed groups in Darfur and the tribal militias that are responsible for the current state of instability in southern Sudan. "Every Sudanese knows that the SPLA is responsible for destabilizing southern Sudan," he said.

Lack of full oil data threatens Sudan peace: NGO

(AFP) A failure to provide full oil production figures in Sudan threatens a fragile north-south peace deal, the advocacy and investigative group Global Witness warned in a report on Monday.

The London-based organisation said there were "serious questions" about the fair sharing of oil revenues -- since oil is drilled in the south but controlled and sold only by former civil war enemies in the north.

"Unless the government of GoSS and Sudanese citizens can verify that the revenue sharing is fair, mistrust will grow and the peace agreement could be jeopardised," said Rosie Sharpe, who penned the report. According to the report, oil production figures from south Sudan released by Khartoum were lower than those provided by the companies which drilled the oil, by some 9-14 percent in 2007 and 26 percent in 2005.

However, figures for oil drilled only in the north -- and therefore outside the revenue sharing deal -- do approximately match those provided by drilling companies, the report added.

President Al-Bashir offered concessions to South on referendum

Sudantribune.com 06/09/09 – President Al-Bashir offered the SPLM concessions that could pave the way for their secession in 2011, but at a price.

Both sides disagree over the percentage of votes required to call the referendum a pro-independence, the population of southerners allowed to participate and the post-independence arrangements including the share of national debt to be carried over by the south.

An official in the Sudanese Presidency who asked not to be named told Sudan Tribune that Bashir told FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit in Khartoum prior to the SPLM political bureau meetings in Juba last month that the NCP would make "radical" concessions on all outstanding issues on the CPA up to and including the referendum in return for SPLM support for an Al-Bashir candidacy for President of the Republic come the April 2010 elections. The SPLM has not made any decisions on their nominee to run for the president.

Another official at the SPLM political bureau confirmed to Sudan Tribune that Bashir's offer was discussed during their August meetings, but was turned down on the grounds that "the NCP cannot be trusted to follow through on their promises."

Southern Sudan discusses misunderstandings with Kenya

Sudantribune.com 05/09/09 – The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has discussed the misunderstandings between the semi-autonomous region and Kenya after occurrences of several deadly incidents at their common border.

In the Friday cabinet meeting chaired by GoSS Vice President, Riek Machar Teny, the Council deliberated on the matter presented by the minister of Regional Cooperation, Oyai Deng Ajak, and resolved that there was an urgent need to amicably settle the issue with the sisterly country.

According to the official Spokesperson and minister of Information and Broadcasting, Paul Mayom Akech, a ministerial committee was to be established to quickly work out a best approach to discuss the matter with the Kenyan government. It was not yet clear who would head the committee and its terms of reference.

Donors promise to release the elections funds, Election commission

SUNA 06/09/09 - The Secretary General of the NEC, Dr Jalal Mohamed Ahmed on Sunday said his commission has received promises from a number of donors that the election funds pledged by donors would be released.

He said members of the NEC's policies held a meeting today (06/09/09) in the presence of representatives of donor countries, and received assurances about Sudan's commitments to free and fair elections.

He said the donors have promised to release all the funds they had pledged for the election commission, after they were assured about the government honouring its commitments in the process.

Misseriya leaders refuse to cooperate with border demarcation committee

Misseriya leaders are refusing to cooperate with the 8-member Abyei border demarcation committee formed by the Presidency in the wake of the Abyei border ruling, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. The committee members are back in Khartoum after travelling to Abyei and failing to start work due to lack of cooperation from Misseriya elders and tribal leaders and some officials at the Abyei Area Administration (AAA).

Musa Hamadein, the key member of the Misseriya Association, said that the Misseriya are requesting that the 1956 borders be defined first before the AAA border demarcation committee could set to work. He said they are concerned that the areas west of Abyei remain Misseriya land because of its importance as a livestock migration route to them.

Abyei Administrator to summon SRSG Qazi over Abyei statements

Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Moyak says the Abyei Area Administration (AAA) is pondering over summoning SRSG Ashraf Qazi within the next two weeks over statements he made earlier about an SPLA incursion in the AAA ahead of the ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on the Abyei boundaries. **Akhir Lahza** quotes Moyak as saying that the intention is to inform SRSG Qazi of the risks that such a statement held at that sensitive period.

He assured members of the Abyei border demarcation of the AAA's support and said they could come at any time to start work.

SPLA drives LRA out of Yambio

The Information and Communications Minister in Western Equatoria State, Joseph Bajiko, says SPLA forces successfully forced LRA soldiers out of Yambio following a recent LRA raid on Yambio, reports the **Khartoum Monitor**. According to the official, some 11 LRA fighters attacked the town while chasing a woman who escaped from them and were eventually driven out by the SPLA. The situation in the town is said to be back to normal.

Security issues to top agenda of SPLM/A Liberation Council meeting

The SPLM has concluded preparations for its National Liberation Council meeting scheduled to be held sometime this month, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. Senior SPLM officials intimate that the meeting will discuss a series of issues including preparations for the elections, the SPLM's candidates and measures to resolve the differences among SPLM members. The security situation in southern Sudan will be a key point in the agenda as well as the issue of SPLM-DC and its motives, sources say.

UN, SPLA intelligence block JIU convoy to Wau from Aweil

SPLA elements blocked a JIU supply convoy travelling from Aweil to Wau, **Akhir Lahza** reports. Quoting sources, the paper said that the JIU escort was fully disarmed by direct orders from the Governor of North Bahr-el-Ghazal and was thoroughly searched by UNMIS troops in a clear violation of the CPA.

The SPLA elements are said to have offloaded the cargo of JIU supplies in front of civilian witnesses in the vicinity despite the protests from the SPLA members of the JIU escort.

Finance Ministry reports an SDG1,691 million deficit in fiscal budget

The Ministry of Finance has revealed that the first half of this fiscal year has seen a budget deficit to the tune of SDG1,691 million, **Ajras Al-Hurriya** reports.

State Minister for Finance, Lual Deng, said that the deficit made up about 4.2% of the projected budget and was covered by foreign aid and bank loans.

SCOVA dispatches delegates to draft “Sudanization” plan

The Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) has delegated heads of local NGOs registered with it to Darfur to assess the humanitarian situation and to assess the needs of the local NGOs operating in those areas, **Akhir Lahza** reports.

SCOVA head, Siraj-el-deen Abdulghaffar, said that the mission will also enable the SCOVA set up plans for the future of humanitarian activities in Darfur and to prepare local agencies to take over voluntary work in the country.

Anti-government graffiti appears on Sudanese capital walls

Al-Watan (via BBC Monitoring) 06/09/9 - The last time people saw the walls of houses and schools used for slogans attacking regimes and governments was before the uprising in 1985 when the Communists and Ba'athist bombarded the Numayri regime with criticisms and political slogans that did nothing but allow for the opposition to let off steam and of course disfigured walls! Funnily enough, the two bigger parties, the National Ummah Party and Democratic Unionist Party, do not have a culture of expressing their opposition by writing on walls! This applies to the National Islamic Front!

A while ago local authorities launched an intensive campaign against bill posters and adverts for events and attempted to end this harmful practice that affects the public appearance.

New Sudanese newspapers bring total published to 54

Akhbar Al-Yaum 06/09/09 - The press committee at the National Press and Publications Council has given its approval for the publication of four new newspapers. Approval was given for the publication of **Al-Usturah** newspaper and to Usuda Export Printing and Publishing Company to resume newspaper work and to publish **Al-Balad** with Salah Omar Al-Sheikh as chief editor. Approval was further given to the Alwan Printing and Publishing Company to publish **Al-Masa** whose chief editor will be Isam Ja'far.

Finally, approval was given for The **Advocate** Printing and Publishing Company to publish a newspaper concerned with strengthening ties with Ethiopia on condition that the paper is published in English and Arabic. The committee said a request by company to publish in Amharic will be considered at a later date. Consequently, the number of social newspapers has leapt to 12 with the total number of political, sports and tabloid newspapers now being published reaching 54.

Hunger kills at least 14 in Eastern Equatoria, says bishop

Gurtong.org (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) In the past two weeks, 14 hunger-related deaths have been reported in seven communities of in Ikotos County, Eastern Equatoria, the catholic Bishop of Torit said.

Bishop Akio Johnson Mutek issued a hunger alert saying increasingly severe food shortages claim the lives of 14 people in Napwajore, Lodwara, Mohina, Ramula, Lokorohore, Chorokol and Lodwara communities and threaten the lives of many more.

http://www.gurtong.org/ResourceCenter/weeklyupdates/wu_contents.asp?wkupdt_id=3175

IDP says better north if conditions remain the same in south Sudan

Sudantribune.com (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) 06/09/09 - Awut Deng Baak, a southern Sudanese leaving in Jebel Auliya, Khartoum State, says better to remain in northern Sudan if conditions remain the same in the South.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32370>

Probe underway as Sudan-Uganda border opens

Allafrica.com (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) - Authorities in southern Sudan yesterday began investigating security operatives cited in Tuesday's gun raid on Lefori Sub-County in Moyo District as Uganda re-opened Afoji border post closed earlier over the incident.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909040484.html>

Now LRA Suspends Juba Peace Talks

Allafrica.com (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) – The Lord's Resistance Army yesterday suspended its peace talks in Juba, saying they no longer have confidence in the chief mediator, GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909050007.html>

Upper Nile calls for no military intervention after bloody fighting

Sudantribune.com (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) 05/09/09 - The Upper Nile State government said that military intervention in Upper Nile would only extend to more killing of innocent civilians.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32357>

Commentary

Unfriendly relations with media in South Sudan

Sudantribune.com (via UNMIS southern Sudan Media Monitoring) 06/09/09 - Media in the world's democratic countries is treated with respect as the fourth organ of government. Its activities are always developed and promoted, not suppressed. South Sudan also claims to be a democratic nation in the making, at least in principle. Its leadership at the executive, legislative and judiciary organs has been trying to build a good relationship with this fourth arm of government since 2005. But something has begun to go wrong this week.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32376>