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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

MSF suspends operations in Jonglei due to violence

Al-Ayaam newspaper - Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) announced yesterday it has suspended its work in Jonglei state due to violence.

"Attacks on our staff and clinics prevent us from providing essential medical aid," said Rob Mulder, who heads the MSF mission in southern Sudan.

There were three incidents during the last month against MSF's healthcare clinics in the remote village of Gumuruk which is only accessible by plane or boat during the rainy season.

On July 1, an armed group broke into the clinic and robbed special food used to treat severely malnourished children. Three days later, there was another robbery against the center. Then on July 27, four MSF staff members were violently robbed by armed men while they were traveling by boat, said the agency.

Sudan criticizes UN/AU force, sets travel controls

Al-Khartoum - A Sudanese official said yesterday that the government would monitor travels by UNAMID's peacekeepers and accused the mission of sheltering people responsible for violence in the camps. The development comes only one day after the UN Security Council extended the mission's mandate until July 2011 and instructed it to use full capacity to protect civilians in Darfur.

Senior Information Ministry official, Rabie Abdelati, accused UNAMID of failing to halt the violence in the camps and harboring instigators of the fighting, and said the force must in future inform the government of all travel plans.

"UNAMID has not done its job at all. There was shooting, burning, people died and all they did was watch," Abdelati said.

Abdelati said "the governor of South Darfur told UNAMID that they should either do their job in Kalma refugee camp or get out and let the government take over."

NCP approves new "domestication" strategy on Darfur

Sudan Tribune web site - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has approved a new strategy on Darfur and promised to present it to other political parties in order to garner as much national consensus as possible for the strategy.

Sudan's official news agency, SUNA reported that the meeting of the NCP's leadership bureau on 29 July, chaired by president Al-Bashir, approved the new Darfur strategy as presented by the presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen who is in charge of the Darfur dossier.

The strategy will be presented to the legislative councils of Darfur's three states in line with the strategy's direction of domesticating the solution to all issues related to Darfur problem, including security, development, reconciliations, humanitarian situation and political negotiations

Ghazi Salah Al-Deen declared that the strategy would be presented to political forces and national personalities in order to explore their views and muster as much national consensus as possible for the strategy.

However, two Darfur rebel figures excoriated the new strategy as a plan for "a new security and military campaign that include, among other things, dismantling the IDP camps.

"The regime now believes the international community gave them the green light to do whatever

they want in Darfur since the focus now shifted to the South Sudan referendum" Justice and Equality Movement spokesperson Ahmed Hussein told Sudan Tribune.

"Their vision is to domesticate the Darfur peace by finding what they called peace from within and got [US special envoy Scott] Gration's approval. They have tried this before in the South and failed" he said, adding that "Khartoum believes that resolving the crisis entails taking down the camps for the displaced and forcing their return to their villages."

Echoing a similar opinion, JEM's top military commander Suleiman Sandal also accused the Sudanese government of seeking to launch a new military campaign in Darfur and in Kordofan, stressing that their target is "the marginalized people".

"The National Congress Party is lying and deceiving the Sudanese people. The fugitive president wants to start a new genocide campaign in Darfur" Sandal said.

Earlier this month, judges at the International Criminal Court issued a second warrant of arrest for president Bashir on three counts of genocide allegedly committed in Sudan's westernmost region of Darfur.

President appoints Ministries' Undersecretaries

Al-Khartoum newspaper - President AL-Bashir issued a number of decrees appointing the following Undersecretaries:

Jibreel Abdelatif, Ministry of Presidential Affairs;

Dr. Najm Daoud Mohamed Daoud, Ministry of International Trade;

Prof. Awatif Abdelgadir Ijaimi, Ministry of Human Resources Development;

Mohamed Abdelmajid Al-Sadiq, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;

Mussa Omer Abulgasim, Ministry of Electricity and Dams;

Mohamed Saleh, Ministry of Mining;

Engineer Adam Abakar Bashir, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources;

Charles Niyang, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

Pre-Referendum Monitor:

CPA partners resume talks in Cairo Monday

Al-Khartoum newspaper - SPLM and NCP delegations are expected to arrive in Cairo on Sunday to participate on the second round of the workshop sponsored by Egypt in a bid to reconcile between the views of the two parties ahead of the Referendum. Presidential Advisor Nafie Ali Nafie and the SPLM Secretary General are expected to lead the two delegations.

Kiir rules out south declaring independence unilaterally

Sudan Tribune web site - The president of the semi-autonomous government of Southern Sudan has ruled out declaring unilateral independence in an interview with Radio Netherlands Worldwide.

Salva Kiir Mayardit, who is also the First Vice President of Sudan, told the Dutch radio station that he was committed to conducting the referendum on southern secession as agreed in a 2005 peace agreement between his party the SPLM and Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

Radio Netherlands Worldwide quoted Kiir as saying:

"I don't think that there is any point where southerners will declare a unilateral independence. It is not up to us ... up to the South to declare an independent Southern Sudan without the process

that we have agreed upon."

Southern Sudan is widely expected to vote for full independence in the referendum scheduled for January 9, 2011.

Kiir's position appears to contrast with southern Sudan's Vice President, Riek Machar, who told the southern parliament that a unilateral declaration of independence was an "uncomfortable" option but did not rule it out.

The NCP has said any such move will amount to a declaration for war.

Vice President confirms African countries' support to unity of Sudan

Akhir Lahza newspaper - Addressing the Tenth Federal NCP Youth Forum yesterday, Vice President Ali Osman affirmed that all African countries, with two exceptions, are supporting the unity of Sudan. He said Arab, Muslim and non-Aligned countries also shore up unity adding the stands of Great countries are very unclear.

Luka Biong: We are determined to conduct the referendum with or without borders demarcation

Ajras Al-Hurriya newspaper - The leading SPLM figure, Luka Biong, vowed there would be no return to war between north and south and pointed out to the pledge made in this regard by President Al-Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir. Biong reiterated his party's position in rejecting linkages between the implementation of the Referendum and borders demarcation. "I do not see any link between the two processes," he said.

Warning against overlooking Abyei borders demarcation and formation of Referendum Commission

Ajras Al-Hurriya newspaper - The Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol called on the UN to enhance its forces in order to cover all areas that recently witnessed security incidents. However, he noted to reservations of the in areas residents over UN presence.

Addressing a forum organised by Abyei students yesterday at the SPLM HQ in Khartoum, Arop revealed that due to security reasons there was no progress in the demarcation of the northern borders of Abyei threats.

Gosh: PCA ruling did not resolve the Abyei dispute

Al-Ayaam newspaper - The Presidential Adviser for Security Affairs and former Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), Salah Gosh, has said the ruling made by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) to redefine the boundaries of the oil-rich region of Abyei "did not resolve the dispute."

"The ruling did not resolve the dispute and was not adequate or fulfilling to the needs of both sides" Gosh said, adding that the two partners must "find new solutions"

Gosh's statement appears to be a response to Abyei Chief Administrator, Deng Arop Kuol, who said the NCP is "not serious" about honoring its obligation towards the Abyei referendum."

Jonglei governor doubts unity development projects will be completed by referendum

Sudan Tribune web site, July 29, 2010 (BOR) - Governor of Jonglei State, Kuol Manyang Juuk, cast doubts on Thursday that development projects financed primarily by the Government of National Unity will be completed before south Sudan's referendum due to take place in January, 2010.

The governor of the oil-rich state said that he is “not counting on National Unity Support projects”, which include the Maridi dam and water system, Mugala Port and building modern roads in Bor town, the capital of Jonglei State.

“There are no roads in Jonglei State because we cannot afford the cost. My ministers are working on foot [without vehicles] but things will change one time,” Gov. Kuol said.

The Government of National Unity (GoNU) dominated by the National Congress Party is paying the majority of the costs as part of its campaign to demonstrate the benefits of unity by implementing nationally funded development projects in the south.

Southern Sudan’s semi-autonomous government run by the SPLM is also contributing a small percentage.

The two parties agreed to share power and Sudan’s oil wealth in a 2005 peace deal that comes to an end in January 2011 with the southern Sudan conducting a referendum on whether it wishes to secede from the north.

As part of the deal, known as the CPA, both sides agreed that they would work to make unity attractive to southern Sudan ahead of the referendum.

Kuol said that despite prevalent poverty and underdevelopment, people in Southern Sudan “will not [be] demoralized” in their hopes that the referendum will be conducted on time.

“We are a poor state but we cannot be demoralized by that [level of poverty],” he added.

Insecurity and conflict reporting

Speaking at a workshop on strengthening conflict sensitive reporting in Bor on Thursday Kuol reiterated his pledge to allow full freedom of the media in Jonglei.

Kuol instructed his cabinet not to interfere with the press. He said: “we are partners in achieving peace and checking on malpractices [of public funds]” with the media.

During the workshop, run by Agency for Independent Media and funded by Pact Sudan and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign, the way in which incidents of conflict are reported was named as one of the causes of insecurity in the state.

Bashir's party raises doubts on south Sudan referendum

BBC News, 29 July 2010 - President Omar al-Bashir's party has said the referendum on whether south Sudan should secede cannot take place until the internal border is decided.

A vote on a possible new country without a clear border would be a recipe for a new war, the NCP says.

But the former rebels in charge of the south have angrily dismissed linking the two issues. The SPLM fought the north for two decades before a 2005 peace deal which paved the way for January's referendum.

The BBC's James Copnall in Khartoum says some in the south see the National Congress Party's statement as an attempt to delay the vote, or possibly to press the SPLM to back down over areas in dispute.

He says there are several areas of dispute about the boundary, including near lucrative oil fields. As part of the peace deal, the two parties are officially in coalition but tension is growing ahead of the referendum in Africa's biggest country.

In Sudan's landmark elections in April, SPLM leader Salva Kiir stood in the election for president of the south, rather than the whole country.

This was generally taken to show that his priority is to lead the south to - and after - independence.

Several donor nations have recently expressed their fears that the necessary preparations have not been made for the referendum.

Both north and south have accused the other of delaying the demarcation process.

A senior NCP official, Ibrahim Ghandour, told the BBC he did not want Sudan to follow the example of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Eritrea split from Ethiopia in 1991, but the two countries are still arguing and have fought over the precise border.

Southern Sudan's Regional Co-operation Minister Barnaba Benjamin told the BBC that linking the border issue with the referendum was "illogical and unacceptable".

He agreed that the border must be demarcated but said if this was not done by January, the referendum should still be held as planned.

A majority of southerners, who are mostly Christians or followers of traditional religions, is expected to vote for independence from the mainly Muslim and Arabic-speaking north.

Earlier this month, a group of south Sudanese church leaders called for people to vote for independence.

After the long conflict, the south remains one of the least developed parts of the world.