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Highlights

Juba conference affirms simple majority for self-determination

The political parties meeting in Juba have declared that their participation in the upcoming elections will depend on the amendment of the laws which are not in harmony with the constitution and that these amendments should take place not later than 30 November. The parties have also mentioned as a condition the resolution of the Darfur crisis, demarcation of the border between the North and South, resolution of the dispute over the census results and guaranteeing an equal opportunity in the media for campaigning, **Al-Sudani** reports.

The conference, which concluded its sessions yesterday, agreed on a simple majority for deciding the destiny of the South. The final communiqué of the conference has called for conduct of referendum on schedule as provided for in the CPA and the interim constitution, submission of the referendum law to the Parliament in the coming session which begins on 5 October and guaranteeing the rights of the southerners to self-determination.

Meanwhile, Umma Party chairman Sadiq Al-Mahdi has expressed astonishment over the NCP's criticism of the Juba conference. "If the NCP accepted the conference's result that is good but if it does not consent then it will put itself in a collision course with a large group with legitimate demands," he said. Al-Mahdi who was speaking to reporters in Juba, described as "nonsense" the claim that war in Darfur was over.

PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi said the majority in the South is for secession. "If you hear the voices that call for separation from within the forum you will lose hope for unity," he said, adding the country should be prepared for separation. "Comparatively speaking, the status of freedom of expression in the south was better," he said. Al-Turabi who was speaking to reporters at his residence upon return from Juba said there was no way to block secession by the referendum law and described Juba forum as historic.

Umma Party Reform and Renewal leader Mubarak Al-Fadil Al-Mahdi warned that if democratic transition did not take place by 30 September, the political parties might collectively boycott the upcoming elections.

Al-Sahafa reports NCP Information Secretary Kamal Obeid as saying that the conference declaration includes nothing new and that "neither the NCP nor the Government will head to its recommendations". "Threat to boycott elections is unpatriotic stance that runs counter to the CPA. This confirms a foreign hand in the conference," he said.

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit, who addressed the closing session yesterday, lashed out against the southern parties who walked out of the forum.

"When the SPLM was fighting with the government in Khartoum, the people who walked out here yesterday were in Khartoum, they were fighting the SPLM," he told the participants, according to **Sudan Tribune website**. "It will be the people of Southern Sudan who will determine their future destiny in the referendum vote on self-determination and not the SPLM or its leadership." "If I want unity of the country and cast my vote in the unity box and you all cast your votes for separation, the South would separate. And if I vote for secession and you vote for unity, the South would not separate from the rest of the country; and so what is the problem; what are we fighting about?" he asked.

He said the conference was held to discuss the issues of the country, adding it was not directed against anybody. He warned against attempts to sabotage the CPA which he described as key to solution of the country's problems. "How can we seek to derail a CPA that we have fought for," he wondered.

The conference declaration proposed to maintain the current percentage of power sharing of 28% for the southern Sudan as stipulated in CPA, stressing that the results of the fifth census are disputed and there is a need to reach a consensus on the issue.

The declaration also called to establish a "Truth and Reconciliation Committee to investigate all violations and atrocities against the rights of groups and individuals" in the country since Sudan became independent in 1956.

The conference also urged the Sudanese government to implement the other peace agreement signed with the eastern Sudan rebels and the northern opposition.

With regard to Darfur conflict, the meeting called for the full implementation of Abuja peace agreement and reaffirmed the need to settle the conflict through peaceful negotiations. The declaration further said it supports the legitimate demands of the Darfur people including the one region, individual and collective compensations, and traditional rights on the land.

The conference also reiterated its rejection to the impunity of all the crimes committed in Darfur asking to try the responsible before an independent court.

Reacting to the conference, Abdel Wahid Al-Nur, the SLM leader hailed the holding of meeting in "this decisive juncture in the Sudanese history". He also stressed that the equal rights of citizenship for all the Sudanese remains the sole way to preserve the unity of the country.

Also the United Resistance Front of Bahr Idriss Abu Garda welcomed the resolutions of the meeting particularly the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and stressed the need to resolve Darfur conflict before election.

Ali Mahmoud Hassanein, DUP Deputy Chairman, who joined yesterday the meeting to show his support to the conference said, "we think now that the NCP is the main enemy of the Sudanese people," adding "There are so many problems in the Sudan committed by National Congress in the north, in the south, in Darfur (west), in the east and even in the center of the Sudan."

Reuters 30/9/09 reported the SPLM and the opposition parties issued a joint statement at the end of a conference calling for the northern National Congress Party (NCP) to process a backlog of laws, which are seen as key building blocks to the poll.

Laws, including national security and media legislation, should be changed and passed by Nov. 30, according to a copy of the statement seen by Reuters. "This is regarded as a condition for the participation of the forces participating in the conference in the next election," the statement added.

The ultimatum is likely to raise already heightened political tensions in the build-up to the vote, which was promised in the peace deal that ended the civil war between Sudan's Muslim north and its mostly Christian and animist south.

Jonglei villagers flee after rumors of new attack

Sudan Tribune website 30/9/09 – Authorities in Twic East County say villagers are fleeing the area following rumors of a new attack from the Lou Nuer who had already attacked the same locality last month.

Twic East Commissioner Diing Akol Diing says days are being counted down for possible attack and "there is general fear." Unconfirmed reports claim the Lou Nuer armed men gave 9 days ultimatum to Twic East citizens in Panyagoor to prepare for war or quit.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune by phone from Panyagoor, Twic East headquarters, Mr. Akol says the situation is tense and there is uncertainty about security situation.

"People are living in fear...and there is general fear of attack," he said when asked to talk about security situation in the area. Mr. Akol added that such warning messages could not be ignored given experiences of latest attacks in Duk Padiet and Wernyol.

He added that UN staffs operating in the County suspended their activities and decided to leave. This, he says, exaggerated insecurity rumors among local people. Mr. Akol says County authorities are trying in their capacity to save civilians' lives.

South Sudan troops heading there to control tension had their trucks stuck in Paliau Payam's dry season road – a distance of about 12 miles south of Panyagoor.

In a related development, Pibor Commissioner Akot Maze Adikir says armed men attacked a village there but left no casualties last Monday.

Humanitarian Affairs admits famine in the South

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has admitted the existence of a humanitarian problem in both Darfur and the South particularly in Jonglei State where people die of hunger and conflicts, **Al-Wifaq** reports. Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Humanitarian State Minister Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani revealed mediation by Islamic and European NGOs to seek readmission of the ousted INGOs but he said that the decision of the expulsion was sovereign and nonnegotiable.

NCP convention kicks off today

The NCP general convention will kick off today amid participation of more than six thousands members, **Al-Sahafa** reports. The opening session, which will be addressed by President Al-Bashir, will also be attended by foreign delegations. According to NCP official Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, the convention will appoint influential personalities to top party posts.

Cooperation with US on terrorism directed against nobody – Ghazi

Al-Sahafa reports Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din as saying that security cooperation with the US is intended to dispel the US' fears over alleged Sudan's role in supporting terrorist groups. He categorically denied that the cooperation is directed against any state, group or individuals.

Ghazi downplayed the US and regional concern over Sudan's relationship with Iran, dismissing claims that Sudan is Iran's agent in the region. He expressed astonishment over claims of Iranian weapons plants in the Sudan. "What is wrong in procuring weapons to defend borders," he said. "If you can not get weapons from the US and Europe, why not buying them from Russia and China," he added. "And if you can buy them from Russia and China, why not from Iran," he

wondered.

Ghazi, who made the remarks in an interview to the London-based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* newspaper, has described GoSS' management of the South as "deplorable", citing insecurity and armed conflict in the region.

Sudanese president to address nation on 5 October

SUNA 30/9/09 reported President Al-Bashir is expected to address the nation on Monday, Oct 5th from Omdurman-based National Assembly on 2010 policy. On Wednesday, Oct 7th, the authority will deliberate President Al-Bashir's address to come up with a reply.

USA says no policy reverse until Khartoum makes changes - official

Miraya FM 30/9/09 reported the White House Press Secretary, Robert Gibbs, said during a press briefing last Tuesday that the US policy towards Sudan is still under consideration, and that there is no announcement concerning those policies till now. Gibbs pointed that the US will not reverse its policies towards Sudan unless changes are made on ground in Khartoum.

Egyptian FM defends Sudan's military campaign in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 30/9/09 reported the Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit defended the actions of Sudan since the rebels in Darfur took up arms in 2003 against the central government on claims of marginalization.

"What happened in Sudan was a civil war and an attempt by the Sudanese Authority to impose itself on the ground against a threatened rebellion," Aboul-Gheit told the London based *Al-Hayat* newspaper in an interview.

The Egyptian reiterated his country's rejection of the arrest warrant for the Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir for his role in orchestrating the military campaign in Darfur.

"The AU has rejected the accusation against Bashir. The AU is the highest authority in Africa. The Arab League rejected it. Egypt does not agree to it. Why? Because we see there is a politicization of this decision," Aboul-Gheit said.

"When a resolution is issued by the Security Council under Chapter VII we shall be committed to it. As long as no such resolution has been issued, this remains an accusation by the Prosecutor-General. The ICC decision is not obliging to any party that is not a member in this court. This is the position that we have adopted at the Arab League and that the African Union adopts. It is not an Egyptian position only. We are not committed by anything in which we are not members. We are not members in the court," he said.

Sudan ready to cooperate with Uganda over oil production

The *Wall Street Journal* 1/10/09 - The Sudanese government is ready to offer maximum cooperation to Uganda as the latter moves closer to start oil production in the Albertine rift, a diplomatic official said late Wednesday. Ali Hussein Award, Sudan's ambassador to Uganda, said in remarks broadcasted live on the national television that Sudan was ready to share its expertise in oil production with Uganda, which has discovered huge oil reserves in the Albertine rift. "The Sudanese Government is ready to cooperate with Uganda in developing its oil sector, including establishing a refinery," he said.

Hussein said Sudan is also ready to resolve outstanding border disputes with Uganda along the common border to ensure peace and stability.