

13 June 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Ministerial formation to be announced tomorrow (**Al-Khartoum**)
- Delay of formation of Blue Nile state government raises concerns (**Al-Sahafa**)
- South Sudan re-appoints VP ahead of referendum (**Reuters**)
- Oil companies accused of helping to fuel Sudan war crimes (**The Guardian**)
- Misseriya kill one man, injured two in Abyei (**Al-Sahafa**)
- ICC urges UN council to push for Sudan arrests (**Reuters**)
- Washington and SC encourages SPLM to secession – NCP (**Al-Rai al-Aam/ST**)
- Sudan raises red-flag over child soldier recruitment (**ST**)
- Sudanese president reshuffles army ahead of new government formation (**ST**)
- Sudan must ease travel ban (**Straits Times**)
- SPLM women's league threatens to form parallel body (**The Citizen**)
- Sudan requests INTERPOL help in nabbing the killers of a USAID official (**ST**)
- Justice Minister's decrees can not be challenged – Court (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)

Pre-referendum Watch

- US special envoy holds talks on Sudan with Egyptian officials (**ST**)
- Egypt 'will respect' South Sudan's choice of secession – envoy (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)

Editorial

- Sudanese editorial calls for federal formula to avoid secession of south

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Ministerial formation to be announced tomorrow

Al-Khartoum 13/6/10 – According to reliable sources, the formation of the new government will be finalized today and will be announced tomorrow Monday. Reportedly, Ali Ahmed Karti will take over as foreign minister.

Meanwhile, **Al-Ayyam** reports GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs Luka Biong as saying that formation of the new GoSS government would be announced next week.

Delay of formation of Blue Nile state government raises concerns

Al-Sahafa 13/6/10 – The people of the Blue Nile state have reportedly expressed concern over delay of formation of the new state government by Governor Malik Agar. They complained that the delay of formation of the government resulted in a constitutional vacuum which in turn affected the functioning of the state government machinery.

South Sudan re-appoints VP ahead of referendum

Reuters 12/6/10 - South Sudan's president Salva Kiir reappointed his deputy, state media said on Saturday, in his first step to forming a new government to take the underdeveloped region to a 2011 independence referendum.

Kiir, who won an overwhelming April election victory to stay in power as president of south Sudan, issued a decree reappointing Riek Machar as the region's vice president, the state Suna news agency reported.

Kiir is expected to name the rest of his new cabinet in the next few days, with seven months left before the plebiscite, due in January 2011.

Analysts say southerners, embittered by decades of war and perceived northern exploitation, overwhelming want to secede.

The new government will face a list of challenges ahead of the vote including drought, surging tribal violence and rebellions by at least three militia leaders angry at the results of the April elections.

Fighters loyal to militia leader David Yauyau kidnapped four government guards in south Sudan's Boma wildlife park close to the border with Ethiopia on Thursday, south Sudan's army said.

The southern army said it had sent out a battalion to rescue the men and retrieve radio equipment stolen in the raid in Jonglei state, where French oil giant Total TATF.PA has a largely unexplored concession.

President al-Bashir is also expected to announce the country's national coalition government in the near future.

Bashir said the key national Ministry of Energy and Mining would be led by a member of Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Machar split from the then rebel SPLM in 1991, saying its leadership was undemocratic, sparking south-south battles that killed thousands. He later returned to the movement.

Oil companies accused of helping to fuel Sudan war crimes

Guardian.co.uk 13/6/10 - Three oil companies were last week accused of being complicit in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan. A report published in Sweden by a group of charities and peace activists called for Swedish oil company Lundin, Petronas of Malaysia and OMV of Austria to be investigated by their national governments.

The trio, led by Lundin, operated in a consortium and in 1997 signed a contract to extract oil in a territory known as Block 5A, which was not then under the full control of the Sudanese government. The report, by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS), says the start of oil exploitation set off a vicious war in the area, and that between 1997 and 2003 large-scale crimes were committed as the government attempted to secure control.

The accusations include indiscriminate attacks on civilians, pillage, rape, torture and the abduction of children. Thousands of people died and others were violently displaced from their homes. While the perpetrators were the armed forces of the Sudanese government and local militias, the report calls into question the role played by the oil industry.

It says the Lundin consortium worked alongside the perpetrators, that its infrastructure enabled the commission of crimes by others, and that it should have been aware of the abuses.

Lundin denies that it violated international law and that it participated in, or had knowledge of, any of the illegal acts documented in the report.

The report includes testimony from a Presbyterian pastor, the Rev James Koung Nimrew, who said: "There was random shelling of the villages, shelling even of cows... they burned churches. There was no safe place. Even women and children were killed in this indiscriminate kind of killing."

Misseriya kill one man, injured two in Abyei

Al-Sahafa 13/6/10 – Abyei Legislative Assembly Chairman Mr. Charles Abyei has accused a group of Misseriya of killing a civilian and wounding another in the village of "Maker, two miles north of Abyei town. He said the Misseriya attackers came from Mujlad, adding the attack caused displaced of many households. Mr. Charles said police were sent to the area and the situation was brought under control.

According to **Reuters** 13/6/10, Abyei Chief Administrator has confirmed the attack and that tensions are mounting in Abyei ahead of a referendum due in January 2011 on whether the territory should join south Sudan - an oil-producing region that is preparing for a separate plebiscite on whether to split off as an independent country.

Abyei, which is close to key oil fields and includes rich pasture land, is used by two main groups, the Dinka Ngok, linked to south Sudan's Dinka people, and nomadic Misseriya Arabs, associated with the north.

Some Misseriya leaders fear they would lose their grazing grounds if Abyei moved to the south - even though the southern government has promised to let nomads cross borders.

"There was a Misseriya attack on the village of Maker, 12 miles (19 km) north of Abyei town on Saturday morning," Abyei chief administrator Deng Arop Kuol said.

"They attacked it killing one civilian and wounding another man from the village ... We feel it is politically-motivated to cause disruption."

Kuol said the attack on the Dinka Ngok village had come as a surprise as relations had been good in recent weeks.

A UN official confirmed the attack but said the identity and motivation of the attackers were unclear.

Seven months ahead of the referendums, leaders from both sides have still not agreed on the position of their shared border, or named commissions to organise the voting.

In another development, ***Akhbar Al-Youm*** reports that the Misseriya leaders in southern Kordofan have called on the government to reveal their 2% share of oil revenue. The Misseriya leaders, at press conference yesterday in Khartoum, said they did not know how much money was paid to the "Western Sector Development Fund" and called on the Ministries of Finance and Energy to declare the real figures.

ICC urges UN council to push for Sudan arrests

Reuters 11/6/10 - The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor urged the U.N. Security Council on Friday to support his crusade to apprehend two men indicted three years ago for suspected war crimes in Sudan.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told the 15-nation council it should ensure the United Nations makes the arrest of both men a priority and treats it "as a critical condition for securing peace and stability to Darfur."

The Security Council will discuss Sudan and the situation in Darfur on Monday. Moreno-Ocampo said he hoped it would seize the chance to take a strong stand on Haroun and Kushayb.

It was not immediately clear whether Moreno-Ocampo would get what he wants from the council, where China has sometimes played a protective role for Khartoum.

Mexican Ambassador Claude Heller, president of the council this month, said members expressed "different views" during closed-door consultations, although they generally agreed that Sudan should "comply with the decisions of the court."

Elise Keppler of New York-based Human Rights Watch said "Sudan has thumbed its nose at the Security Council's authority for too long" and the council should "make it clear that Sudan cannot ignore its obligation to cooperate with the court."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said efforts to pursue justice for crimes in Darfur should be tempered with a push to achieve lasting peace. U.N. diplomats say that U.S. special envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, has a similar view.

Moreno-Ocampo said the United Nations had informed him of the "confidential reasons" for why their attendance was necessary, which he accepted. He added that "all unnecessary meetings (with indicted suspects) should be avoided."

Sudan's U.N. ambassador, Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem, said Moreno-Ocampo's remarks

were based on "lies and fabrications."

"He's one of the biggest impediments to peace in our country," he added.

Abdalhaleem noted he was a personal friend of Haroun, now governor of South Kordofan state, where the disputed oil-rich town of Abyei is located.

"He is a great man," he said. "I salute him on this day."

Moreno-Ocampo told the council that Haroun "should be arrested before he commits new crimes in his new position."

U.N. officials and analysts say the United States and other Western powers are now focusing less on Darfur and more on Sudan's north-south tensions before a Jan. 9, 2011, referendum on independence in semi-autonomous southern Sudan.

Washington and SC encourages SPLM to secession – NCP

Al-Rai Al-Aam 13/6/10 – The NCP has announced its rejection of the SPLM's movements within the UN Security Council and criticized the US role in this regard, saying Washington is encouraging the SPLM to push for secession. NCP official Haj Magid Siwar has criticized the UN Security Council, saying the free movement of the SPLM leaders within the SC poses threat to Sudan's security and constitutes a violation of the international charters and laws. He said the move on the part of the SPLM and the US by pushing for separation is a violation of the CPA.

Meanwhile, **Akhir Lahza** reports SPLM leading figure and Deputy Speaker Atem Garang as saying that the visit of the SPLM's delegation to Washington has nothing to do with the Security Council's session on Sudan, adding the visit of the delegation is normal.

However, according to **Sudan Tribune website** 11/6/10, Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General Pagan Amum arrived in New York to brief the UN Security Council members on the implementation of the peace accords ahead of a referendum on self determination next year.

The 15-member body will discuss Sudan on Monday. The head of UN Mission in Sudan and the joint peace mediator will brief the UN council respectively about the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the ongoing efforts to end the seven years conflict in Darfur.

"The visit to New York (aims) to brief the Council members about the "status of the CPA and the referendum for the independence of the South Sudan in January 9th 2011" said the heads the southern Sudan liaison office in Washington Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth who is part of the SPLM delegation.

The international community fears a possible border war between northern and southern Sudan and also consternated by the issues of insecurity and tribal violence in the south.

Sudan raises red-flag over child soldier recruitment

Sudan Tribune website 12/6/10 - June 12, 2010 (JUBA) — Sudan was among six other African countries that signed the N'Djamena Declaration, a binding document that outlines the commitments to and reinforces international standards for the protection of children.

The N'Djamena Declaration encompasses instruments such as, the Optional Protocol to the

CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC), the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC), and the Paris Commitments (and Paris Principles and Guidelines) on the Recruitment and Use of Children by Armed Forces and Armed Groups.

This historic commitment was part of the closing ceremony of a regional conference organized by the Chadian Government and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) based on the theme: "Ending Recruitment and Use of Children in Armed Forces and Groups Contributing to Peace, Justice, & Development."

Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Niger and Nigeria, according to a UNICEF statement issued yesterday, were the other countries that made commitment towards ending recruitment of child soldiers and to support social reintegration.

Sudan Tribune has, however, learnt that only Chad and Sudan have so far signed and ratified the OPAC, while Cameroon and Nigeria have signed, but have not yet ratified. On the contrary, Central African Republic and Niger have neither signed nor ratified the protocol.

"The interest given by stakeholders to this conference is unprecedented in the history of Chad. We, in Chad have taken into account certain conditions and measures to respect the rights of our children affected by armed conflicts," Ms Ngarmbatina Odjimbeye Soukate, Chadian Minister of Social Action said in the statement.

"If we stand idle to these atrocities taking place in the very fabric our societies affected by constant conflict, who else will take action in our place," she added

Dr. Marzio Babilie, UNICEF's representative in Chad said the commitment against child soldiering was not only a new beginning in Africa, but a firm step towards giving all children in the region the dignity of a childhood they've so often been deprived of by decades of conflict.

"It is now time to translate these powerful words into concrete actions," Dr. Babilie said, adding that, "UNICEF Chad remains committed to sustain efforts of all the countries in the region to achieve that essential and noble goal.

Meanwhile, a monitoring committee has been established as one of the key action points of the N'Djamena Declaration.

The committee, earmarked to meet regularly, will monitor the implementation of the Declaration; develop an action plan and timetable for reporting.

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 1612 and 1882 call for an end to the recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups.

Over the past years, the conflict in Sudan's Western region of Darfur and series of unrest in the other countries have also resulted in the proliferation of small arms, light weapons, organized crime and unexploded ordnances.

Nigeria for instance periodically faces sectarian violence with serious consequences on children's rights. Also, the influx of refugees from neighboring countries and movements of people uprooted due to conflict also lead to serious child protection challenges.

Last year, a report released by Oxfam, a British charity group said nearly 2,000 people

reportedly die daily from small arms, with most deaths recorded in Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

Sudanese president reshuffles army leadership ahead of new government formation

Sudan Tribune website 10/6/10 - Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir Thursday made changes among the highest ranks of his army yesterday, sending five generals into retirement as the country awaits the announcement of a new government following April's elections. expected in the coming days.

The army communiqué released today listed among them General Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf, the outgoing deputy commander in chief who has been placed on the U.S. sanctions by former president George W. Bush administration since May 2007 for his alleged role in Darfur war crimes.

It also included Gen. Jaafar Mohamed Al-Hassan who is under U.N. Security Council (UNSC) sanctions along with three other individuals for the same reasons since 2006.

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) spokesperson, Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'ad, said today the reshuffle was part of regular promotion and retirement of the army senior staff.

The top military officers impacted by the presidential decision are the Chairman of the Joint Staff Command Gen. Mohamed Abdul-Gadir Nasr Al-Deen, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Staff Command, Gen. Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn-Auf, the Commander of the Marine Staff Command, Gen. Al-Zain Hamad Ballah, the Deputy Commander of Staff Command of the Land Forces, Gen. Jaafar Mohamed Al-Hassan and Deputy Inspector General Gen. Karbino Akec.

Bashir, who received the retired five generals in his office at the army headquarters today, praised their great efforts exerted throughout their military service. The Defense minister Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein lauded their strong services to the nation and its armed forces.

Furthermore, more than 2,000 junior officers in the various departments of SAF were promoted, besides retirement of some others.

In today's decision the Sudanese President appointed Gen. Esmat Abdel-Rahman Zain Al-Abdeen, as new Joint chief Staff Command, and Air Gen. Ahmed Ali Ahmed Al-Faki as his Deputy and Gen. Ali Sharif Al-Tahir, as Inspector General.

Gen. Engineer, Mustafa Osman Obeid was appointed Chief of Staff of the Ground Forces, Air Gen. Mohydeen Ahmed Abdalla, is appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Air Forces and the Air Defence Forces and Marine Gen. Mohamed Fadl as the Chief of Staff of the Marine Forces.

Furthermore, Gen. Abdel-Rahman Mohamed Zain was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence replacing Gen. Al-Abbas Abdel-Rahman Khalifa, and Gen. Hashim Abdalla Mohamed Hassan is appointed the Director of the General Administration of Supply at the Ministry of Defence.

Gen. Esmat who is the new Joint chief Staff Command has been questioned by the International Criminal Court (ICC) teams in Sudan over the conduct of military operations in Darfur.

Sudan has been cooperating with the ICC between 2005-2007 in its investigations which ultimately led to charging president Bashir, a minister and a militia leader with war crimes.

However, the government refused to surrender any of citizens to the Hague court and refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC despite the UNSC resolution in 2005 referring the Darfur case there.

Sudan must ease travel ban

Straits Times 13/6/10 - SUDAN must relax a near blanket ban on travel to remote parts of South Darfur to let aid groups reach areas hit by a resurgence of violence, the European Union's commissioner for humanitarian aid said on Saturday.

Aid groups said this week Sudanese security forces blocked flights and road trips in Darfur, stranding staff and stopping food deliveries.

Sudan's mostly desert Darfur region is seven years into a conflict that started in 2003 when mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against Sudan's government, demanding more autonomy.

Aid groups set up the world's largest humanitarian operation to care for hundreds of thousands driven from their homes by the rebellion and a fierce counter insurgency waged by government troops and allied, mostly Arab, militias.

European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, speaking to Reuters after a four-day visit to Sudan, said Sudanese authorities had turned down 26 of more than 30 recent requests for aid road trips in South Darfur state. Flights were also being blocked, she said.

'We are calling on the government to allow the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations that are key to get into more remote areas,' she said by phone from Kampala. 'One in five or one in six requests were granted... They have to shift more towards access being the rule rather than the exception.' She said some aid groups were equipped to work in dangerous areas and needed to reach civilians affected by violence.

SPLM women's league threatens to form parallel body

The Citizen 13/6/10 - Women in the SPLM are threatening to form a parallel body to the General Union of Sudanese Women by allowing the participation of women in political parties and civil society organizations to form a parallel group in case the NCP refused to reconsider elections of the Women's Union.

Regina Richard, the Director for Women's Affairs at the SPLM, said that the national women's umbrella group has become an organ of the NCP. The SPLM would not participate in the union unless its constitution is amended, she said. She revealed that women in southern Sudan have refused to participate in the national union and have formed the Southern Sudan Women's League.

Sudan requests INTERPOL help in nabbing the killers of a USAID official

Sudan Tribune website 12/6/10 - The Sudanese government today asked the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to issue orange notices in order to locate four men sentenced to death for killing a USAID employee two years ago in the Sudanese capital who managed to escape prison this week.

An Orange notice is defined by INTERPOL as one that is issued "to warn police, public entities and other international organizations about potential threats from disguised weapons, parcel bombs and other dangerous materials".

The Sudanese police said in a statement yesterday that the convicts broke out through an old sewage pipe and escaped the notorious Kober prison. This is the first time in the history of the Sudan that a prisoner succeeds in making his way out of Kober which is considered a maximum security facility where political figures are normally held when detained.

The fugitives who boarded a Toyota Land cruiser after their escape clashed briefly with police at a checkpoint northwest of the twin capital city of Omdurman but still managed to overrun it, killing a police driver on spot.

Sudanese media quoted officials as saying that they are closing in on the suspects expecting them to be captured in the coming hours.

However, the INTERPOL released a statement today saying that at the request of the Khartoum it issued an international security alert for Abdelraouf Abu Zaid Mohamed Hamzza, Mohamed Makawi Ibrahim Mohamed, Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhassan Haj Hamad and Mohanad Osman Yousif Mohamed.

"Based on identifying information provided by INTERPOL's National Central Bureau (NCB) in Khartoum, including the fugitives' photographs, the Command and Co-ordination Centre at the General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon has issued the Orange Notice security alert to law enforcement officials in each of its 188 member countries" the statement said.

"All NCBs and INTERPOL Regional Bureaus have also been requested to circulate the alert to all relevant national and immigration authorities to assist in the location and identification of the convicted murderers".

The new development may be an indication that Sudan believes the four men are attempting to flee the country.

"The escape of these dangerous convicted murderers who showed no hesitation in firing upon police, leaving one officer dead and another injured, is a significant threat to the safety and security of citizens, and Sudan should be commended for their swift actions in alerting the global law enforcement community and the wider public," said INTERPOL's Executive Director of Police Services, Jean-Michel Louboutin.

"The information included in the INTERPOL alert which has been sent to police around the world, will significantly increase the chances of these four killers being quickly recaptured. These men are clearly dangerous and the public are advised not to approach them, but instead report any sightings to their local police," warned Louboutin".

"The INTERPOL General Secretariat will continue to work closely with NCB Khartoum and other NCBs to provide whatever additional assistance is required to locate and arrest these dangerous fugitives" he added.

Yesterday the Sudanese lawyer for Granville's family, Taha Ibrahim told the London-based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* that the escape was a "political partnership that took place from inside and outside Sudan".

Ibrahim predicted that the four men will try to head towards Somalia and expressed doubt over the police version of their escape noting that all detainees sentenced to death in Kober prison have cuffs on their hands and feet.

In Washington, the State Department said it expected Sudanese authorities to apprehend the

escaped convicts and ensure that justice is served.

"The United States Government expects that Sudanese authorities will apprehend these convicted murderers and ensure that justice is served for the men killed and their families" US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said in a statement.

John Granville and his Sudanese driver Abdel-Rahman Abbas Rahma were shot dead on 2008 New Years Eve by men believed to be belonging to an Islamic militant group Ansar al-Tawhid which claimed responsibility for the killing.

Granville was the first American to be killed in Sudan since 1973, when two diplomats were slain by Palestinian militants.

The defendants sought an overrule of the death penalty by the appeals court particularly after it was reported that the driver's family waived their right to request that the men be executed in accordance with Islamic Shari'a law. However in December the court upheld the capital punishment.

Justice Minister's decrees can not be challenged - Court

Al-Rai Al-Aam 13/6/10 – The Constitutional Court on Friday announced that decrees issued by the Minister of Justice in accordance with his powers contained in article 33 (1) of the Interim Constitution of the Sudan, 2005, can not be appealed by any court including the Constitutional Court unless the Minister's decrees violate a constitutional right.

Pre-referendum Watch

US special envoy holds talks on Sudan with Egyptian officials

Sudan Tribune website 12/6/10 - US special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration today held talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo regarding the crisis in Darfur and the upcoming self-determination referendum in Southern Sudan.

The Egyptian state media said that Gration discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit the joint efforts to maintain peace and stability in Sudan.

Gration told reporters after the meeting that his country was interested in implementing the 2005 CPA and would work with the AU and the international community "to ensure a free and transparent referendum".

The U.S. official stressed that his government does not vouch for either choice but will respect what the Southerners choose and support it.

Egypt is concerned that a probable South Sudan independence in 2011 will further weaken its position with regards to the intense diplomatic battle it is fighting with Nile basin countries which is seeking to re-allocate water sharing accords.

Gration also met with the Arab League Secretary General Amr Mousa and briefed him on US efforts regarding humanitarian and security efforts in Darfur as well as means to work together to achieve prosperity in Sudan.

Egypt 'will respect' South Sudan's choice of secession – envoy

Al-Rai Al-Aam 12/6/10 (*BBC Monitoring*) -The Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum, Abd-al-

Wahab Afifi, has called upon all the Sudanese parties to move effectively to make unity attractive ahead of the referendum.

He stressed that Egypt desires unity, and yet he said "if the people of the south choose secession we will respect their choice". In a report in Al-R'ay Al-Amm to be published tomorrow [13 June] he said yesterday [11 June]: "We will make efforts to strengthen the ties between the north and the south with fraternal relations away from violence and confrontations".

Afifi strongly denied rumours that Egypt was trying to hijack the Darfur dossier from Doha. He said "Egypt is much bigger than that. He disclosed efforts being made by Cairo to support Doha in its effort to resolve the Darfur crisis. He stressed that Egypt strongly believes the importance of achieving peace and stability in Sudan in general and Darfur in particular by adopting Doha as a unified forum for negotiations.

Editorial

Sudanese editorial calls for federal formula to avoid secession of south

Text of Editorial: "Self-Determination Aims at Confirming Sudan's Unity" in English by Sudanese government newspaper Sudan Vision website on 12 June

A lot of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) articles were misunderstood or say its features were not clear. On top of those misunderstandings is the issue of self-determination.

What is widespread amongst the people is that the self-determination articles were designed to separate south from north. This understanding is false as the self-determinations aims at affirming Sudan's unity and that is clear by what is stipulated in the CPA in committing the two partners to make the unity option predominant.

One of the disadvantages of the misunderstanding is that a lot of people were disappointed and were overwhelmed by the despair towards the continuation of unity. However, the disappointment of people discouraged them from taking any action that might boost Sudan's unity and make unity option attractive.

It is also a kind of losing hope to stop looking for any means that could support unity option instead of sentimentalism and crying.

As we! are now in an advanced stage to the extent that we should recognize that supporting unity option is an individual duty for the CPA partners as well as all Sudanese people as we cannot make our efforts a success through the traditional means.

Songs and poems are not enough to convince our brothers in the South to vote in favour of unity. Instead, we should launch open dialogues over the demands of our brothers in the South in all aspects to maintain the existing inherited unity.

There should be a transparent and faithful dialogue with the SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] leaders and the other South Sudan elites being in the government or in the opposition, being politicians or otherwise on the principles and bases of the unity and its demands.

We should discuss openly the significance of the relations between north and south. Some intellectuals spoke about a federal formula that might satisfy the separatists trend and achieve

the unity which is the aspirations of all Sudanese in the north and in the south as well. This federal formula is not far from the existing ruling system which came as a result of the CPA as it availed a reasonable degree of independency for the south through the delegation of powers to act outside the federal government, besides giving the GoSS [Government of Southern Sudan] the right to enact whatever laws that coincides the cultural and the social contract for south Sudan citizens.

We do not think that the federal government has any objection in granting GoSS more independency within the united Sudan.

We urge our legal experts to present proposals that support the federal government formula to avoid the unknown consequences for the ill-omened secession.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.unmissions.unmis.org

United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200