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Media Monitoring Report

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

Post-Referendum Monitor

“South Sudan” accredited as name of the new state

Al-Sahafa Juba, 14/02/11 - The SPLM Political Bureau, at a meeting yesterday chaired by GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit, endorsed “South Sudan” as the name of the soon-to-be-born state.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said the new name would be submitted to the SPLM organs, the South Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) and to representatives of southern Sudanese political parties meeting on Tuesday for endorsement.

Amum revealed that a committee was formed to reorganize the SPLM northern sector to convert it to a political party with Malik Aggar as chairman, Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu as his deputy and Yassir Arman as Secretary-General until it holds a general convention.

Salva Kiir, southern leaders to discuss political road map for southern Sudan

Al-Sahafa Juba, 14/02/11 – The President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, holds talks later today with leaders of southern Sudanese political parties in a bid to chart a roadmap for the region’s political future.

Sources report that consultations and preparations are underway for the formation of an interim government to be headed by an interim president with more than one vice-president. The sources further expect the number of ministerial portfolios to increase with the introduction of the position of state (junior) ministers. Sources also intimate that the Ministry for Peace and CPA Implementation may be scrapped altogether. Current Minister for Regional Cooperation, Deng Alor, is highly tipped for the foreign ministry position while current Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Luka Biong, may be named the new country’s Permanent Representative to the UN.

SPLM welcomes meeting of opposition parties in Juba

Ajras Al-Hurriya Juba, 14/02/11 – The SPLM has welcomed a meeting of the opposition political parties in southern Sudan today. SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said that the committee formed by the GoSS to revise the constitution was not representative of all political parties in the south. He pointed out that the SPLM would call for a comprehensive constitutional conference with all political forces in the region at the end of the Interim Period.

Al-Bashir says he doesn’t fear facing a Mubarak or Ben Ali fate

Sudantribune.com; Al-Intibaha Khartoum, 14/02/11 - President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir on Sunday reiterated that he is not afraid of facing the same fate of the Tunisian and Egyptian leaders who were thrown out by unprecedented popular uprisings over the course of weeks.

Bashir and other Sudanese officials have gone on the offensive in the media to downplay suggestions that the country could face similar unrest giving reasons that ranged from having a situation where people are enjoying vast political freedoms with no corruption to being a country that implements Islamic laws contrary to Western and Israeli desires.

"We are not afraid, we do not prevent the people from expressing their opinions, but we listen to them and we want to hear their demands and their legitimate aspirations," Bashir told supporters at the inauguration of the Al Dabba-Arghy bridge in Northern State.

"We are with freedom for everybody...whoever stood with us or stood against us," he said.

He added that freedom is the basis and "driving force" of the nation and asserted that his National Congress Party (NCP) got "full authorization" from the people in last year's elections.

The Sudanese president hailed the Egyptian youths who utilized social networking sites such as Facebook and Tweeter to coordinate their mass demonstrations.

A political analyst speaking to Sudan Tribune in Khartoum today said Bashir's statement today reflect a growing concern over the possibility of being ousted in a similar manner to his ex-peers in Tunisia and Egypt.

"The deteriorating economic conditions of people in Sudan is making Bashir and the NCP wary that one they wake up and find themselves thrown out. The recent events [in Tunisia and Egypt] proved that these things could materialize in matter of days," said the analyst who asked not to be named fearing retaliation.

SPLM would remain active in the north – Pagan Amum

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum/ Juba, 14/02/11 - The SPLM has decided to disentangle its office in the north and south of the country with effect from the 8th of July 2011, party Secretary-General Pagan Amum told reporters on Sudan.

Amum further revealed that the SPLM had decided to charge Malik Aggar, the governor of the Blue Nile State, with the leadership of the SPLM in north Sudan while re-appointing Yassir Arman as its secretary-general.

He also told reporters that Abdulaziz Adam Al-Hilu, the deputy governor of Southern Kordofan State, had been appointed as deputy SPLM chairman in north Sudan.

Pagan Amum stressed that the SPLM was already registered as a political party in the north and would not need new registration.

According to Amum, the SPLM's politburo had also decided to transfer the elected northern members of its National Liberation Council (NLC), the highest decision-making body in the movement, to form another Liberation Council in North Sudan until the party there organizes a general convention.

Repeated failure to hold planned meetings of the NLC has fuelled speculations that the SPLM's leadership is trying to avoid confrontation with the council's northern members who are feeling betrayed by the SPLM's favouring of south Sudan secession.

But SPLM officials contend that the delays are caused by technicalities related to the busy schedule of its officials.

Southerners will be allowed six months after the interim period

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 14/2/11 – Sources report that the NCP and the SPLM have agreed that southern Sudanese residing in northern Sudan be granted a six month grace period after the end of the Interim Period to sort out the issue of their residence status.

The sources report that this would not be an extension of the Interim Period prescribed by the CPA but rather a 6-month period to enable southern Sudanese in the north legalise their status.

Foreign ministry delegation to head south for talks with GoSS officials

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 14/02/11 – Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Rahamatallah Mohamed Osman, would be heading a high-level delegation of the Ministry for talks with GoSS

officials in Juba. Ambassador Rahamatallah said that the visit is meant to seek channels of coordination with their counterparts in the south.

Britain looking into debt relief for Sudan: envoy

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 13/02/11 - The British government along with the United States have formed a joint committee to look into possible debt relief for Sudan's debt, the U.K. ambassador said today.

The British ambassador to Sudan Nicholas Kay who met today with the minister of the International Cooperation, Jalal Al-Digair said that the Treasury in his country is examining ways to alleviate Sudan's debt burden.

It is believed that Sudan owes Britain close to \$1 billion in debt.

The United States promised to assist Sudan internationally with its debt relief effort but cautioned that this is a lengthy and complex process.

The British envoy also revealed that a parliamentary delegation will visit Khartoum later this month to review situation on the ground following the South Sudan's overwhelming vote in favor of secession.

Police disperse journalists' demo

Al-Ahdath 4/2/11 – Police intervened yesterday to disperse a demonstration by journalists in front of the National Press and Publication Council to demand the release of detained media persons. Cameras of photographers were reportedly confiscated.

The demonstrators handed over a memo to the Council deploring restriction of freedoms by security authorities, calling on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities.

Dinka Malual sultan: fake UN patrol sighted in N. Bahr El Ghazal

Radio Dabanga 13/2/11 - Sultan Chol Arop, sultan of the Dinka Malual tribe in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, told Radio Dabanga that citizens in the region saw a tank and three heavily armed Land Cruisers carrying people wearing clothes displaying the letters "UNAMID." He said that those people dressed as UNAMID – the peacekeeping mission in Darfur – have nothing to do with the Mission but instead are using this dress as a ruse.

The sultan described the ploy as part of an effort to cause dissension between the Dinka Malual and neighbouring Rizeigat tribe of Darfur. He accused Abdullah Masar, an advisor to the President of the Republic, of being the tumult. The Dinka Malual leader in an interview also strongly denied accusations by Masar that Darfurian armed movements are present in the region.

Other Highlights

Sudan reaps \$360.19 mln in oil revenue for December 2010

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 14/02/11 – Undersecretary for Finance, Al-Tayeb Abu-Ginaya, says the federal government has remitted all arrears from the GoSS' share of oil revenues for the year 2010. The country's oil industry has realised some \$360.19mln in revenue for the month of December 2010 out of which \$217.13mln has been remitted to the GoSS.

JIU to patrol around Abyei market

Al-Sahafa Abyei, 14/02/11 – The Abyei Area Administration has formed committees and JIU patrols to safeguard the local market and pursue “outlaws” who killed 4 and injured 12 in clashes that occurred last Saturday. Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Abdulrahman Al-Nour says calm has been restored in the area and traders may resume work today, thanks to protection from the UN forces deployed to the area. He pointed out that there are still some Dinka youths causing insecurity in the area but expressed confidence the situation would soon return to normal.

Envoy to Sudan to confer in Nyala on Friday

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 14/02/11 – The head of UNAMID, Ibrahim Gambari, has invited special envoys to Sudan to a conference on the situation in Darfur to be held in Nyala next Friday.

Some 23 special envoys to Sudan are expected to attend the conference alongside representatives from UNAMID and UNMIS.

According to a UNAMID press release, this is the third conference of its kind. The envoys would exchange views over the initiatives aimed at shoring up sustainable peace in Darfur.

Sudanese women hold second pro-detainees demo in capital

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 13/02/11- A group of Sudanese women on Sunday demonstrated for the second time in a row this week in the capital Khartoum, demanding the release of dozens of detainees held in custody since anti-government protests erupted last month.

Around thirty women whose relatives and sons have been held in detention since the authorities forcibly dispersed anti-government protests on 30 January gathered outside the premises of Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) amid heavy police presence.

The protesting women held placards bearing the pictures of the detainees and slogans calling for their freedom, claiming that they had received reports of them being tortured.

Rabah Al-sadiq said they received information about the torture of the detainees. "We heard they are being sprayed with water and electrocuted," Rahab Al-Sadiq, the daughter of Sudan’s former Prime Minister and leader of the National Umma Party (NUP), told *AFP* on Sunday.

According to Rabaha, the authorities are holding more than 70 protestors.

The Sudanese police also broke up today another protest by dozens of journalists gathered outside the National Council for Press and Publications, in Khartoum, demanding the release of detainees from the staff of media outlets and newspapers.

The police seized cameras from journalists who wanted to cover the event, and prevented them from raising any banners demanding the release of their colleagues.

The protesters handed a letter to the press council demanding to secure the release of the detained journalists and to exert more efforts to ensure the respect the freedom of expression for the press.

Sudan’s NCP says still committed to dialogue with opposition party

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 13/02/11 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in north Sudan has renewed commitment to dialogue with the opposition National Umma Party (NUP), one day after the latter’s leader Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied reports of agreeing to join the

government and reiterated demands for reforms.

The NCP's secretary of organizations, Mandur al-Mahdi, said in statements carried by Sudan's official news agency *SUNA* on Sunday that his party would not cease talks with the NUP.

"There are joint committees between us, therefore, we welcome continuation of this dialogue and expect to see its results" The NCP official said. Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir offered to incorporate opposition parties into "a broad-base" government after it became clear that south Sudan was certainly going to secede from the north.

"I don't know what more can we do to prove that we are not after participation [in the government]? We are talking about the national agenda that everyone can be part of," Al-Mahdi told reporters on Saturday at a press conference.

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

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