

16 March 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

Mbeki, Kiir discuss suspension of NCP-SPLM talks

Al-Sahafa 16/3/11 – AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki discussed yesterday in Juba with GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit SPLM's decision suspending talks with its partner the NCP. The meeting also touched on post-referendum issues particularly Abyei.

Sources said Kiir officially protested to Mbeki the NCP's support to militia groups to destabilize the South, showing him evidence to that end. Mbeki returned to Khartoum yesterday and is expected to meet President Al-Bashir and hold a press conference.

According to the *Citizen* 16/3/11, NCP leading figure, Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed, said that despite the unilateral step by the SPLM to withdraw from talks, the NCP would still recognize South Sudan's independence on July 9. "This is a strategic decision of the NCP because this was the choice of the southern Sudanese and we respect it" he said, adding "we will not reverse that because of some irrational people in the SPLM leadership".

Blockage of migration routes pushes Abyei to the brink of war

Al-Sahafa 16/3/11 – While the Abyei Administration reached a deadlock over efforts to resolve the issue of migration corridors, the Misseriya have warned that continued closure of the routes could cause fresh tensions in the region.

Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop held yesterday consultations with his deputy Rahama Abdul Rahman Al-Nur to discuss reopening the routes for migration of nomads but pointed out that "residents in Abyei are angry over recent incidents of killings and arson", stressing the need to find a decisive solution to the issue of nomads, warning the Misseriya against resorting to force in the Area which will mean they have opted for war.

Misseriya leader, Bushtana Mohamed Salem, said the 10-day ultimatum for reopening migration routes expired yesterday and the Misseriya nomads need to move to Abyei and proceed to Warrap state but indicated that native administration leaders requested the nomads to wait for a solution promised by the government. "We can not wait for more than two more days due to lack of water for our cattle" he said, adding "No one wants war. We support Kadugli agreement but if migration corridors are not reopened a problem will occur".

Meanwhile, *Al-Intibaha* 16/3/11 reports that the Misseriya allowed the GoSS one day to pull out SPLA and police elements from Abyei, warning that the tribe is getting impatient. While UNMIS called on the SPLA to move southward, a group of Ngok Dinka torched five UNMIS vehicles

In a related development, Abyei civil society organisations said on Monday they were "deeply concerned" by the continued settlement of the members of the Misseriya tribe in territorial boundary awarded to the Nine Dinka Ngok Chiefdom, by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2009 and demanded the immediate halt of the activities, according to *Sudan Tribune.com* 15/3/11.

The group, predominantly represented by churches; community based organisations; youth and women groups; as well as political activists and students from different academic backgrounds in the area, expressed concerns over the "continued settlement" by members of the Misseriya tribe in areas identified by the Permanent Court of Arbitration as belonging to the Nine Dinka Ngok, as "illegitimate" and an obstacle to peaceful coexistence between.

The petition entitled "No to Occupation" is addressed to the US President with copies to Security Council of the United Nations and the Sudanese Presidency, also calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the Sudan Armed Forces allegedly present in the territory belonging to the nine Dinka Ngok chiefdoms.

"This is exactly the work of the National Congress Party [NCP]. No one else is doing this. They are deliberately settling Misseriya in areas where oil is being drilled so that they can use it as justification to claim they belong to the Misseriya, by making settlements for them", said Deng Abiem, member of the State Legislative Assembly in Warrap, in a telephone interview with Sudan Tribune from Kuajok on Monday...

SPLM Amum's documents fabricated, intended to resume war – NCP

Al-Rai Al-Aam 16/3/11 – The NCP, in a statement it issued yesterday, accused SPLM SG Pagan Amum of fabricating documents and spreading lies to reignite war between the North and the South. The statement said NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi's signature on the alleged document is forged.

Presidential aide Nafie Ali Nafie has called on the SPLM to focus on the South's development and to desist from making false allegations against the NCP.

Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein, Sudan's defence minister, is to hold a press conference today to refute SPLM's charges that the SAF is supplying arms to renegade Gen. George Athor's forces, according to *Al-Akhbar* 16/3/11.

Radio Miraya 15/03/11 reports the NCP says any evidence that suggests it is supporting southern militias is a fabrication. A leading member in the NCP, Rabie Al-Atti told *Miraya* that his party is committed to the CPA implementation and that acceptance of the referendum results is the proof, adding that the NCP is keen to see southern Sudan emerge as a stable state.

In another development, the Chairperson of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change SPLM-DC Lam Akol, said that his party sticks to political activism and does not have any militia. Akol attributed the recent statements made by Pagan Amum about SPLM-DC's involvement in the violent incidents in Malakal to personal issues.

The SPLM-DC leader further told *Radio Miraya* that what happened in Malakal was a result of violation of agreements signed between armed groups and the SPLA.

Foreign Minister rules out popular uprising in Sudan

Al-Sahafa 16/3/11 – Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti, reacting to calls by youths on the Facebook for protest, has ruled out an outbreak of popular uprising in the Sudan similar to that in Egypt, Tunis and Libya, saying the situation in the Sudan is different from those countries. He

said the Sudanese people are not naïve to be mobilized by a person who fails to win their votes in elections.

On Halayeb, a triangle disputed between Sudan and Egypt, Karti said the time is not right to raise the issue, adding there are a host of proposals on the table for its resolution, including converting it into an integrated area.

UNMIS evacuates northern students, lecturers from Malakal

Al-Ayyam 16/3/11 – UNMIS yesterday evacuated about 350 students and 32 teachers of the Upper Nile University in Malakal in the wake of the recent incidents in the town.

Student secretary in the university Dr. Abdullah Hamid said the students had gone through difficult times due to worsening security situation, adding that 200 students have been transported to the town of Renk, 150 students and 32 lecturers were flown to Khartoum.

The university administration has resolved to suspend studies indefinitely, citing security concerns, according to *Al-Khartoum* 16/3/11.

We will bar southern Sudanese MPs from Parliament – Deputy Speaker

Al-Akhbar 16/03/11 – Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Haju Gismelsid, has said the Parliament would resume sessions on the 4th of April but without the southern Sudanese lawmakers whose membership would be terminated during the current month of March, adding that they would not be allowed to enter the House.

He said that recent statements by some NCP officials to the effect that the ouster of the southern Sudanese MPs would be illegal are their personal views and do not represent the views of the NCP.

On his part, Thomas Wani, who heads the SPLM parliamentary bloc said the Interim Period should end in April if the NCP does not want southern Sudanese lawmakers to attend sessions. Wani said they are yet to receive notification not to attend parliamentary sessions and consequently they would go to the National Assembly to discharge their duties when the House returns from recess.

Other Highlights

France withdraws SLM Abdul Wahid Nur's passport – UN

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 16/3/11 – DSRSG Georg Charpentier has revealed that the French Government, in response to pressure from donors, had withdrawn the passport of the SLM leader Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur. “These countries have put pressure on France, leading to withdrawal of Nur's visa” he said, adding that Nur is now outside France.

Charpentier made the remarks at a meeting yesterday with deputy governor of North Darfur state Idriss Abdullah Hassan, saying the objective of their visit to Darfur is to acquaint themselves with the conditions of the IDPs who had been affected by incidents in Shangil Tobai and Dar-es-Salam and to explore possibilities of providing them with humanitarian aid. He added that they would also visit west Jebel Marra and Dirbat areas.