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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **CPA parties' talks achieve progress – Amum**

*Al-Ayyam* 17/4/11 – SPLM SG Pagan Amum said the two CPA parties had achieved progress in their negotiations on outstanding and post-referendum issues by agreeing to discuss all the issues as one package.

Amum, who was speaking to reporters in Juba, said the talks between the two sides in Addis Ababa focused on Abyei and border issues, adding the parties also listened to reports by the technical committees on sticky issues. He said the two sides also discussed economic issues, future cooperation in the field of oil after July 9, debts and future of South Sudan currency.

However, the same newspaper of 16/4/2011 reported Amum as saying that the two partners decided to suspend their talks but would resume them by 19 April.

## **Southerners to stay for six months after July 9<sup>th</sup> –Minister**

*Local dailies* 16/4/11 - Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, speaking to Sudan Radio on Friday, said the southern Sudanese in the North would be allowed an ultimatum of six months after the end of the Interim Period in order to adjust.

Meanwhile, *Akhbar Al-Youm* 16/4/11 reported the Minister as telling the Radio that the GoSS had requested the North to demobilize the southern Sudanese in the police force before July 9<sup>th</sup> so that they could join the GoSS police. According to the Minister, about 4,160 southern officers and policemen would be demobilized and their entitlements would be settled before July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Misseriya warn SPLM against entering their areas**

*Akhir Lahza* 17/4/11 – The Misseriya tribe has warned that it would react violently if SPLM officials try to enter their areas to launch the campaign of the SPLM candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post.

A Misseriya source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the tribe had been subjected to attacks and killings in Abyei and Unity state and their cattle had also been looted so they would not allow the entry of any SPLM elements to kick off the campaign of their candidate in southern Kordofan.

## **Dinka warn technical committee not to visit Abyei**

*Al-Sahafa* 16/4/11 – Ngok Dinka Youths for Resistance have warned the technical committee tasked with implementing the Kadugli agreement paying a visit to Abyei on Monday and reiterated their categorical rejection to the agreement.

The Youths, in statement issued yesterday, warned that the members of the committee would be responsible for the consequences of their move. Youths' spokesperson, Paul Deng told the newspaper that the youths would wait for the committee members at the airport and they would not allow them to enter the town, wondering about the fate of the Abyei Protocol, the Abyei Road Map and PCA ruling.

## **Arop urges international community to put pressure for resolving Abyei problem**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 17/4/11 – Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol has urged the international community to put pressure on the NCP to agree to resolve the problem over Abyei territory before the South attains its independence in July.

Speaking at press conference in Juba on Friday, Kuol said the international community did not put sufficient pressure on the President to implement Abyei Protocol and the PCA ruling, adding that SAF and PDF elements are still deployed in the area.

Meanwhile, the Misseriya has accused a group of SPLM forces of launching a fresh attack on the tribe, killing three tribesmen in Abu Goroon area east of Abyei town.

## **UN official lauds role of peacekeepers in Sudan, Haiti and Côte d'Ivoire**

*UN News* 15/4/11 - The head of the United Nations peacekeeping department today praised the role played by blue helmets in recent months in Sudan, Haiti and Côte d'Ivoire, saying their presence made a critical difference during difficult operating circumstances.

Alain Le Roy, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, noted at a media briefing at UN Headquarters that the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had facilitated the successful holding of the referendum for the self-determination of Southern Sudan in January, despite fears that the vote would have to be delayed and that war could break out again.

In Haiti, the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), helped bring under control the unrest that followed the first round of presidential elections last November and facilitated the successful conclusion of the second round of the poll last month, Mr. Le Roy said.

This month, the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), while implementing its mandate under Security Council resolutions, took action to prevent the use of heavy weapons against civilians in the city of Abidjan by forces loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo, Mr. Le Roy added.

“In the three cases, the peacekeepers made a huge difference,” Mr. Le Roy said. “The UN one more time stood firm in conformity with what the Security Council asked us to do and we were able to clearly make the difference,” he added.

He paid tribute to UN members of staff who have died during the past 10 days, the majority of them working in peacekeeping missions. The staff were killed in Haiti, Afghanistan, Sudan, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where a plane crash in the capital, Kinshasa, on 4 April claimed the lives of 32 people, including many UN staff.

Anthony Banbury, Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support (DFS), told the media briefing that the his department, in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), has embarked on major reforms on how to support peacekeeping missions.

“We are working very hard to improve our operational capability,” said Mr. Banbury, explaining that the reforms include such measures as the setting up of a global service centre in Brindisi, Italy, and a regional service centre in Entebbe, Uganda.

The department is also implementing cost reduction. “We are looking very hard at where we can reduce the cost of peacekeeping operations without compromising our operational capabilities,” said Mr. Banbury. Cost-cutting steps include regionalization of the use of aircraft, inventory reduction and keeping vehicles for longer periods.

“These measures that are being implemented by the United Nations now are going to have a very important medium- and long-term impact on our ability to deliver on the expectations of our host populations and governments, on the mandates of the Security Council, taking into account the very difficult financial situations that some of our Member States are facing,” said Mr. Banbury.

### **South Sudan looks to improve state media before independence**

*Sudan Tribune website* 15/4/11 - A delegation from the South Sudan President’s office visited Unity state yesterday to assess what improvements need to be made to the state Ministry of Information and Communication and the department of radio and television broadcasting ahead of South Sudan’s independence on July 9.

The southern government intends to standardize media facilitation across South Sudan ahead of secession. Assessment teams will be visiting the ten states of South Sudan.

Martinson Otoromoi chief of staff from the office of the South Sudan President told Sudan Tribune on Friday that the visit Bentiu was to prepare South Sudan’s media for independence.

Otoromoi said that he hoped improvements would allow the government and President to be able to communicate better with citizens of the new state.

Unity state has a strong radio broadcast presence, led by government owned radio stations, FM 99 and Medium Wave 558 KHZ, which broadcast across South Sudan and neighboring Uganda, DR Congo and Kenya.

The challenges of the state government in running these outlets include lack of reliable electricity, internet connectivity and payment of staff. These issues were brought to the attention of the delegation.

Chief of staff Otoromoi said that ultimately it will be for the South Sudan President to decide on these kinds of requests that will come from all ten southern states.

### **South Sudan to have its own passport by July 9**

*Al-Sahafa* 17/4/11 – SPLM leading figure Atim Garang has said that the GoSS would issue its own passports by July 9<sup>th</sup> adding that GoSS’ committees are considering suggestions for an emblem for the new state.

With regard to the southern MPs, he said the MPs whose memberships were terminated by the National Assembly would join the South Parliament after July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

### NCP and SPLM trade charges over incidents in southern Kordofan

*Al-Ayyam* 17/4/11 – The NCP and the SPLM have exchanged charges over recent incidents in southern Kordofan state where tens of people were killed.

While NCP political mobilization secretary Haj Magid Siwar has blamed the SPLM for the recent incidents occurred in the area of Al-Fied Um Abdallah in southern Kordofan which claimed over 20 lives, SPLM candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu has warned the NCP against attempt to turn the Nuba Mountains into another Darfur. Al-Hilu, who was addressing his supporters in the Julud area, said the SPLM would not react to the NCP provocations intended to drag the movement into a fresh war.

Siwar said his party is keen to sustain stability in the area, adding that “any insecurity in the area will have direct impact on elections and that will not be in the interest of the NCP”. “The SPLM has realized its weakness so it wants to foment trouble to influence the outcome of the electoral process” he added.

*Sudan Vision* 17/4/11 reported Siwar warned against the SPLM platform in Southern Kordofan State describing it as dangerous and threatening the security and stability of the state.

He criticized, in a press conference held yesterday in Kadugli, the SPLM programme which insisted that southern Kordofan State is a natural extension to south Sudan.

Siwar said that the SPLM’s claim contradicts with the reality that southern Kordofan is part of northern Sudan, adding that the call of SPLM for a secular state also contradicts with the CPA which stipulates that northern Sudan is to be ruled by Islamic Sharia while south Sudan to adopt secular ruling.

He affirmed NCP respect to all political forces in the state including the SPLM.

"It is our right to make the citizens aware of the State on the risks of the SPLM and its platform which is presented during the campaign", he added.

Siwar also called on the SPLM Nuba Mountains Sector to sever its relation with the South which became an independent state, adding that despite the political dispute between the NCP and the SPLM Nuba Mountains sector yet it is part of the State and its citizens and has the full right to practice its political activity far from the South and its agendas...

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 16/4/11, the NCP pledged to bifurcate southern Kordofan State by reinstating the state of West Kordofan should the party wins the state’s gubernatorial elections set to take place in less than three weeks.

Addressing a press conference in South Kordofan’s Kadugli town on Saturday, Siwar said his party had no objection to re-establish West Kordofan State if its people wanted to.

Siwar further expressed confidence that the party’s candidate in southern Kordofan elections would achieve a landslide victory.

Tension flared up this week as Abdul Aziz Adam al-Hilu, the frontrunner candidate of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the state's deputy governor, accused militias loyal to Harun of being behind an attack that killed at least 17 people in El-feid village.

But Siwar accused the SPLM of instigating the violence in El-Feid, saying that his party had "intelligence" indicating that the force that primarily ignited the clashes was based at Al-Hilu's house in the village.

### **Israel funding SPLM candidate in southern Kordofan – NCP**

*Al-Sudani* 17/4/11 – The NCP has said it obtained information that SPLM candidate for gubernatorial post in southern Kordofan Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu is receiving logistical support from Israel to run his elections campaign in the area. NCP official Haj Magid Siwar said the executive partnership between the NCP and the SPLM would come to an end after the election results are released.

### **Ballot paper expected in southern Kordofan today**

*Akhir Lahza* 17/4/11 – The ballot paper for southern Kordofan elections are expected to arrive today in the area, source said. The papers have been printed in Dubai.

## **Other Highlights**

### **SLM demands international community impose no-fly zone over Darfur**

*Radio Dabanga* 17/4/11 - Abdul Wahid Mohamed Al Nur, the chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement, demanded the international community impose a no-fly zone over Darfur to protect and prevent the killing of civilians, saying the genocide in Darfur is still ongoing.

Al Nur condemned the international community for not caring about the killing going on in Sudan. Nur accused the Sudanese government of exploiting some crises like the situation in Libya to carry out attacks on Darfur. In an interview with the AFP he demanded the international community and the UN Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Darfur to stop the attacks of the government.

He also added the issue to them is not about going to Doha (the peace talk) or not going, but it is about security, stressing that without security there is no peace. He said they want humanitarian respect for their people and their security which he said is not being provided at the moment.

### **Sudanese are smuggling weapons via the Red Sea – Ministry**

*Al-Sahafa* 16/4/11 – The Ministry of Interior has admitted the involvement of "individuals" in eastern Sudan in smuggling and transporting arms via the eastern part of the country to organizations and groups considered by Israel as terrorists adding that these individuals are smuggling the weapons just for money.

However, the Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, who was speaking to Sudanese Radio, strongly denied any role for the Sudanese government in the smuggling, citing limited capacity to monitor and control the smuggling.

## **Grenade bomb went off in Haj Yousuf in Khartoum**

*Local dailies* 17/4/11 – unidentified man yesterday detonated a grenade bomb in street (9) in Haj Yousuf area of Khartoum state but no casualties were reported. The explosion damaged a vehicle owned by a university professor.

Khartoum state police source said investigation is underway to disclose the motive of the explosion. According to the source, the grenade was hurled from a nearby location but ruled out that the incident was politically-motivated.

## **JEM rebels deny Sudanese army seizure of their positions in North Darfur**

*Sudan Tribune website* 16/4/11 - The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said its fighters repelled an attack by the government troops and militias on its positions in North Darfur denying a statement by the Sudanese army over the capture of a rebel field hospital.

On Friday evening the spokesperson of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Al-Swarimi Khalid said the government soldiers crashed JEM fighters in Shagig Krow area in North Darfur and took a rebel field hospital, logistics base and vehicles maintenance center.

JEM denied the seizure of the area saying they clashed with the Sudanese army 50 kilometers from Karry Yari and forced them to flee the area leaving three tanks behind them.

The rebel group further said in a statement released on Saturday that Sudanese warplanes bombed later the tanks to prevent them from using it.

JEM further said that "small units of the government supported militias" shelled eastern Shagig Krow followed by a bombardment by the Antonov planes.

"Then two (military) vehicles filmed a location nearby the area where there are some old abandoned vehicles pretending it was the largest field hospital of JEM," the rebel group said.

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