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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Al-Turabi to be tried if proved guilty – Source

Al-Rai Al-Aam 18/5/10 – a judicial source did not rule out that PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi would be tried if his involvement in threatening national security is proved.

Meanwhile, PCP leading figure Ibrahim Al-Sanousi said the news published by *Rai Al-Shaab* newspaper about an Iranian weapons factory in Sudan was incorrect. However, Al-Sanousi criticized the manner in which the newspaper was closed, saying accountability should take place through the proper channels. He added that NISS detained Al-Turabi because of revealing election rigging.

Abdullah Hassan Ahmed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Nadwa Company which owns the newspaper, said a case would be filed against NISS for shutting down the newspaper.

LRA kills three Sudanese in deadly ambush in Western Equatoria

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 - Three Sudanese nationals were killed when their car was ambushed by the LRA rebels in southern Sudan state of Western Equatoria, eyewitness confirmed on Monday.

The passengers were traveling in a government car when the fighters shot them dead on Monday, Sudan Tribune learned.

The victims of the fatal casualties were three men who were traveling from Yambio to Tambura. All of them were government officials, Mr. William Arkangelo Baabe, was also known as “Small William” he served as State Director of Accelerated Adult Education, Mr. Gabriel Makana as Director of Finance and Administration and a driver in the State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Late William Arkangelo Baabe and the two men were inhumanly murdered by the LRA in Mabia just few miles from Tambura.

William and the two others who were traveling by vehicle, their corpses have been taken to Tambura now.

Mourners who have spoken to Sudan Tribune have described the deadliest car ambush as “gruesome”.

Two SPLA brigades tracking down George Athor

Al-Sahafa 18/5/10 – SPLA said two brigades are hunting for the dissident general George Athor. SPLA spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol told the paper that Athor is heading towards Fanjak Island along Bentiu. Deim has downplayed Athor’s threats, saying he could not head southwards because the SPLA troops were deployed in those areas. He added that two brigades are now on his tracks, warning that if he fails to surrender then he should “blame himself”. He called on Bor residents to go about their business in a normal manner and should not heed to Athor’s empty threat. “Athor’s threat is a psychological war. He is now thinking about how to save his live,” Deim said. According to Deim, SPLA and Athor forces clashed yesterday but without casualties.

SPLM, JEM coordinating to eliminate Athor

Al-Intibaha 18/5/10 – Juba-based informed sources yesterday revealed that the SPLA Staff headed by Defence Minister Nhial Deng Nhial discussed in a broad meeting with visiting JEM military delegation coordination to achieve various goals. According to the sources, the two sides agreed that JEM would contribute a military force to assist the SPLA to eliminate its dissident general George Athor. Reportedly, the meeting also discussed the possibility of sending a JEM team disguised as representatives of an international mission to the areas controlled by Athor to assassinate him.

Meanwhile, an SPLA force en route to Yirol County fell in an ambush laid by forces of George Athor.

NCP, SPLM to discuss participation in new government

Akhir Lahza 18/5/10 – SPLM revealed that the joint committee between the two CPA partners will meet today to discuss issues of partnership and to determine participation in the new executive and legislative organs. The SPLM elected MPs will also hold a meeting on Thursday for consultation on their participation in the Parliament and selection of a deputy speaker for the National Assembly. According to the paper's sources, the NCP has decided to maintain Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir as Speaker of the Parliament but the SPLM is yet to decide on who should take over as deputy speaker.

CPA is being breached by both parties – UN

Al-Intibaha 18/5/10 – SRSG Haile Menkerios met yesterday with Arab League Secretary General Umr Musa for discussion on the upcoming referendum for southern Sudan. The SRSG told reporters that the UN is in consultation with the Arab League on the implementation of the CPA and pointed out that the agreement is being breached by both parties.

Shooting on Juba—Bor road

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 - At least one person is killed and 3 others injured in passenger bus ambush on Juba – Bor road on Monday, 17 May, officials said.

But a journalistic source says the driver (an Ethiopian) and two passengers (identified as girls from Bor County) are killed.

The ambush occurred between Mongala and Sudan-Safari – area close to Bor County territory. This the second assault following last Thursday incident where scores of people were wounded.

A second source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the shooting on passengers' bus happened Monday afternoon just before to reaching Bor area, adding the number of people injured remains unconfirmed.

Speaking by phone to *Sudan Tribune*, Bor County Commissioner Maker Kuol Lual confirmed the unknown gunmen's attack but says the number of people killed or injured remains unclear.

"I heard one person was killed and others injured in the shooting," Maker says. "But the number (casualties) is changing "You (the media) have to confirm it with the hospital."

As Bor cattle keepers are repeatedly accused of letting cattle loose to graze on Mudari farms, the later are linked with attacking passengers' vehicles heading to and from Bor areas.

Presidency extends invitations for Al-Bashir's inauguration

Al-Akhbar 18/5/10 – informed political sources said the Presidency has extended invitations to a number of countries to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Al-Bashir next Monday. Reportedly, immediately after the oath of office, Al-Bashir will deliver a speech outlining the state's policy on many issues. Invitations were also sent to Egyptian President, Arab League Secretary-General and SG Ban Ki-moon.

South Sudan recruits more female teachers in schools

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 - the regional government of southern Sudan has recruited more female teachers in most schools across the region this year.

"Reports and statistics we have from all ten southern states show we have this year recruited and deployed more female teachers than in the previous years," professor Job Dhoruai, minister of education, science and technology, told reporters at press briefing in his office in Juba today.

Figures extended to Sudan Tribune from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology indicate that government of southern Sudan has employed 124 professional female teachers across the region in a recent recruitment and deployment exercise.

Senior officials of the government of southern Sudan at the Ministry of Education said there is a growing preference for female teachers in most schools across the region. The sources said this is according to a recent region wide research which linked good performance among pupils that are taught by female teachers.

Our observations indicate that the number of female students in teacher training colleges have continued to increase steadily over the past years.

"There is a research study that has actually shown that there is good performance by pupils in schools with more female teachers and in fact classes that are taken by female teachers perform better at exams than those taken by their male teachers. So we are happy that there is a steady increase in the number of females being enrolled in teacher training colleges," the official who declined to be named said.

US kicks off agricultural program in South Sudan

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 –The USAID inaugurated a \$55 million program in the semi-autonomous region of South Sudan aimed at helping farmers there to develop their agricultural potential.

USAID said that a five-year initiative, called the Food, Agribusiness, and Rural Markets (FARM) program, will initially focus on selecting counties in southern Sudan's "green belt zone" which spans Western, Central, and Eastern Equatoria states, and where conflict destroyed much of the local capacity for agricultural production during Sudan's civil war.

The USAID director Raj Shah arrived in Sudan last week where he toured Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Darfur and then travelled to Juba to launch FARM.

A team formed by the agency has conducted an assessment to explore options and priorities for expanding its agricultural and food security programming in Southern Sudan. The findings were used to come up with the FARM initiative.

The project is to focus on commodities such as ground nuts, sorghum, rice, cassava, maize, sesame, tomatoes, cabbage, onion and okra. The areas covered in this program are comprised

of Central Equatoria Counties: Morobo, Kajo Keji, Yei; Eastern Equatoria Counties: Magwi, Ikotos, Budi; Western Equatoria Counties: Maridi, Mundri, Tambura.

USAID director said that his agency will increase its presence in South Sudan in what appears to be a subtle preparation for the high probability of secession following the 2011 self-determination referendum in the region.

Egypt asks JEM leader Khalil to leave its territories

Akhir Lahza 18/5/10 – Egypt has asked JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim to leave its territories within hours. Reportedly, Khalil left Cairo yesterday for an unknown destination and members of his delegations are also preparing to leave Cairo. Reportedly, Khalil wanted to visit Libya but he was refused entry.

Sudan rejects attempts to move Darfur talks from Doha, officials

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 - Sudan stressed its commitment to Doha as venue for the peace process to end Darfur conflict and announced its rejection of any attempt to move the talks to Cairo.

Darfur mediation met yesterday in Doha with head of Sudanese government delegation for the peace talks, announcing the resumption of their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement for the seven year conflict.

"Doha is the only channel for talks with those who are willing to reach peace," said powerful Sudanese presidential assistant and the NCP deputy chief Nafie Ali Nafie in a press conference held in Cairo Monday concluding two day talks about Southern Sudan referendum and Darfur conflict.

Nafie said they discussed the Doha peace process with Egyptian officials. He further asserted they want the talks to be governed by a specific time frame rejecting "rebel maneuvers to enter into negotiations and to get out according to their mood".

"We want the completion of Darfur issue before the referendum," he stressed.

"Today, we need to focus on the unity of Sudan and peace in Darfur; in order to concentrate our efforts to achieve a big development boom planned in Sudan," he added.

It is not clear whether JEM rebels would join the negotiating table or not but the group said has some conditions before talks are resumed.

UNAMID to dispatch assessment mission to Darfur's Jebel Moon

Sudan Tribune website 18/5/10 - The hybrid peacekeeping mission has resumed its security patrols in North Darfur after the end of clashes and plans to send its teams and to escort humanitarian assessment mission to Jebel Moon in West Darfur.

Noureddine Mezni, UNAMID official spokesperson, told Sudan Tribune the hybrid mission is dispatching soon a verification team to Jebel Moon to assess the security situation there.

"The team will be sent from Kulbus, where UNAMID is present while we have no presence in Jebel Moon" he said. Kulbus is around 50 to 60 km from Jebel Moon area.

UNAMID, furthermore, is also planning to escort this week a humanitarian assessment team to Jebel Moon to assess the needs of the civilians.

He also said UNAMID chief Ibrahim Gambari is "closely following the situation and the Mission is in daily and direct contact with both Government of Sudan and Justice and Equality Movement".

Gambari has travelled tonight to New York where he will brief on Thursday the UNSC on the latest developments in Darfur in the context of the 60 days UNSG report which has been already circulated.

Referendum

Security, referendum top President Kiir's priority list

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/10 - The new administration under Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit will consider the 2011 referendum and security matters as top priorities for its five-year strategic plan, Sudan Tribune has learnt.

While speaking during last week's party forum, President Kiir, also Chairman of SPLM said he was committed towards the formation of an inclusive government; a statement applauded by newly-elected party members from both the South Sudan Legislative and National Assemblies.

The President, due to be officially sworn-in on May 21, also lauded his outgoing executive as well as the legislative arms of government for their exceptional performances at various levels.

But as he welcomed newly-elected party members, Gen. Kiir reminded them of the challenges that lie ahead of their obligations, urging them to remain steadfast in their obligations.

Sudan Tribune has reliably learnt that the new Parliament is likely to have two Deputy Speakers, albeit South Sudan's Interim Constitution lacks that provision. As such, plans are underway to have the issue debated and a law enacted.

"We're pondering of creating two deputies for the Speaker of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly but that is not in our constitution. We will ask the Parliament to look into the proposal and see if a law can be enacted to create such a post," President Kiir reportedly told party members gathered at the Saturday forum.

Meanwhile, apart from addressing other key areas of the economy, development and ensuring good governance through the rule of law, President Kiir's new administration will have to grapple with the challenge of trying to implement the numerous issues outlined within his manifestoes.

Critics have, however, cast lots of doubt in the new Kiir administration, with many arguing that the semi-autonomous regime will still bring back its loyal cadres and much- anticipated changes could be a myth, than reality.

"Just look at our current health sector. The maternal and child mortality rates in South Sudan are still alarming and yet these are key issues outlined among the MDGs [Millennium Development Goals]. Over the years, funds allocated end up in a few hands. This is outrageous and I don't expect to see anything new in the next five years," a newly-elected member of South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF) told this reporter yesterday.

“SPLM referendum-related charges reflect political failure” – NCP

Al-Akhbar 18/5/10 – The NCP has downplayed SPLM charges that the ruling party is seeking to undermine the upcoming referendum. NCP political mobilization secretary Haj Magid Suwar told reporters that the SPLM’s charges are baseless and they reflect the “political failure” of the movement. He called on the SPLM to observe its commitments towards the CPA and the international community. He added that the SPLM is suffering from internal disputes and is trying to cover up these internal differences by blaming its failure to handle the referendum issue on the NCP.

In another development, *Al-Ahdath* 18/5/10 reports NCP leading figure Qutbi Al-Mahdi as saying that the incident of burning down the NCP HQs in Juba was caused by the undemocratic nature of the SPLM elements. Al-Mahdi told reporters yesterday that his party rises above such grossly shameful behaviour in order to maintain the partnership with its partner. He said the SPLM elements behave undemocratically particularly on political issues between the two partners. He called on the SPLM to discipline its elements organizationally and politically.

South Sudan Democratic Forum declares South independence

The Citizen 18/5/10 – The Chairman of the South Sudan Democratic Forum Party Martin Elia Lomuro yesterday declared independence of South Sudan in advance. Martin said that Sudan President Omer Al-Bashir is also campaigning for the unity of the Sudan ahead of referendum aiming to take over the will of the people of the South. “We are also declaring it today,” Martin Elia said. Martin Elia, who is also the Chairman of Southern Sudan political parties, has called upon chiefs, teachers and citizens on streets to start talking openly about their future of self-determination.

NCP calls on GoSS to maintain security in the region

Akhir Lahza 18/5/10 – The NCP has called on the GoSS to improve the security situation in the region for the conduct of the upcoming referendum, saying an independent referendum commission should be set up to poll southerners on unity or separation. NCP leading figure Ali Hamid revealed yesterday in Khartoum that his party has drawn a plan to support unity by launching a wide campaign in the ten southern states to raise the awareness of the southerners about the importance of unity.

“It is too late to speak about unity of Sudan” – SPLM official

Al-Rai Al-Aam 18/5/10 – GoSS national mass communication secretary Martin Majot Yak said secession of southern Sudan is inevitable. “It is too late to talk about unity. The confidence they are talking about can not be built within the remaining six months,” he said. Mr. Yak said there would be no stability in the Sudan without secession, adding the choice of the people of the South is separation. “Being election campaign secretary of President Kiir who toured urban and rural areas, I noticed that the southerners are for separation,” he added. He advised oil companies to reconsider their oil contracts because oil ownership will go to the South and if the North wants oil then it has to import it from the South.

South Sudan: UNDP boosts President's office

Sudan Tribune website 18/5/10 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has boosted the President's office, donating an assortment of 50 desktop and 30 laptops computers as parts of efforts to improve communication systems.

The donated items, along with supporting software and server units were handed over to the Office of the President on Thursday.

Dr. Cirino Hiteng, the Undersecretary in the Presidential Affairs Ministry, Government of Southern Sudan said, "I would like to sincerely thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who are managing this project as well as the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom who are funding it."

Recently, a total of 40 staffs from the President's office successfully completed a three-month computer training programme. As such, this UNDP- initiative is seen as part of a much broader programme to enhance overall institutional capacity-building.

Of recent, through the support to the Office of the President Project, a number of key Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) strategies and policies are reportedly being designed and implemented. These include the National Vision as well the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) attainment plan and a policy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Through training and mentoring, human resource capacity is also being improved and important financial management systems are being put in place, as well as building strategic communications capacity," a UNDP statement partly reads.

Currently, UNDP is said to be playing an active role in supporting the Southern government in preparations for the much-anticipated 2011 referendum. Its intervention will encompass the pre-referendum and post-referendum periods.

Already, a Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce has been established to help co-ordinate this referendum process and reach out to stakeholders at home and internationally.

"My hope is that the support we are offering - both technical and infrastructural - will go some way towards strengthening this central state instruction and achieving more creative, cross-sectoral thinking on key policy issues," Joe Feeney, UNDP's Head of Office said.