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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

SPLM threatens parliament boycott

Local dailies report that the SPLM parliamentary bloc has announced it is boycotting parliamentary sessions with effect from today in protest over the lack of response to their memorandum requesting a timetable for deliberations over the non-CPA compliant laws. They had also demanded participation in setting the agenda for parliamentary business.

SPLM parliamentarians were in a stormy meeting yesterday with Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin who assured that the Referendum Bill would soon be tabled before parliament. Speaking to the press following the meeting, the Deputy Speaker said that National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir sent a letter to the SPLM bloc assuring them that their counterparts in the NCP were prepared to sit with them to evaluate parliamentary business. He also pointed out that the SPLM had requested parliament to strip SPLM's Ghazi Sulaiman, Manawa Aligo and Lam Akol of parliamentary membership.

Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan further said that the SPLM threat to boycott sessions is not justified.

Southern Sudan attack kills 7, raises fears of escalation

Reuters Juba, 18/10/09 - Armed men raided a south Sudan village, killing seven people and burning 120 houses, a government official said on Sunday, in an attack which raised fears that inter-tribal violence will escalate.

The United Nations says the violence, fuelled largely by cattle raids and revenge attacks, has already killed more than 1,200 people this year. Analysts believe that the insecurity could affect elections next year and a southern referendum on secession in 2011.

Tut Nyang, a local official from Jonglei state, said the latest attack happened on Friday night. "The attackers ... killed seven and wounded nine," he told Reuters.

"This is retaliation," he said. "They said that they will continue attacking but we don't know if they will continue attacking this place or other places."

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has blamed his former northern foes for arming rival militias in an attempt to destabilise the south before the elections due in April 2010. Khartoum denies this.

But some southern politicians say the violence stems from rival locals vying to cement support before the vote. U.N. sources say the violence seems largely local, caused by a security vacuum in the remote area where southern authorities rarely venture.

Long-standing tribal rivalries have been exacerbated by decades of civil war leaving a mass of angry, armed young men. The semi-autonomous southern government set up under a 2005 north-south peace deal has struggled to establish order outside urban centres.

“There are 100 detainees only, 90 of them foreigners” – NISS DG

Local dailies report that NISS DG Gen. Mohamed Atta yesterday met with editors-in-chief and media persons for a briefing. According to **Al-Sahafa**, Gen. Atta revealed that Sudan is facing challenges particularly extremism, terrorism, racism, armed regionalism, cross border crimes and unlawful immigration which entails a beef up of the security apparatus to protect the country's security. He said only 100 people are now in detention, 90 of them are foreigners apprehended in connection with crimes of terrorism, money laundry and counterfeit currency.

He told the meeting that international and regional security agreement coupled with Sudan-US dialogue on terrorism culminated in resolution of significant dossiers of persons accused of fundamentalism, terrorism and link to Al-Qaeda. He expressed Sudan's displeasure over maintaining its name on the terrorist list despite its cooperation with the US.

Gen. Atta argued that NISS should continue to enjoy the power to detain and apprehend in the new security bill submitted to the Parliament. He revealed that the US requested Sudan not to release a dangerous Somali terrorist but explained that US authorities were informed that the period of detention of this person has ended and he would be freed. He said NISS would push for more powers, citing new economic crimes which entail the agency intervention.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Gen. Atta warned against attempts to weaken the NISS, saying it would be a grave mistake like in May 1985 when the new Government dismantled the entire agency. He said he supports ongoing political and economic transition in the country.

NEC celebrates graduation of electoral officers

SUNA Khartoum, 18/10/09 - The National Elections Commissions celebrated on Thursday the graduation of 40 electoral officers. These officers will work at the elections registry at federal and state levels.

Major Sudanese party slams referendum deal

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 18/10/09 — The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has blasted an agreement made this week that paves the way for conducting the 2011 referendum in southern Sudan.

On Friday the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) broke the deadlock with the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) on the referendum law agreeing to 51% simple majority votes to declare Southern Sudan an independent country or confirm unity in the referendum.

"It is sad that amending any article of the constitution requires two thirds...while south is seceding through simple majority" Bukhari Al-Ga'ali the elections officials at the DUP told the independent **Al-Sahafa**.

"How can the division of Sudan be allowed with a simple majority....it will not be interceded for those who call or accept this depressing percentage" he said. Al-Ga'ali called for imposing other controls that would affect the 51% majority.

"History will not have mercy on any party that goes into the direction to make Sudan's unity in jeopardy," he said.

UN airlifts General Matip's forces to Juba

Sudantribune.com Juba, 18/10/09 – The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has begun airlifting hundreds of guards of General Paulino Matip to the Southern Sudan capital, Juba, from Bentiu, the state capital of Unity state.

About three hundred troops were expected to have arrived in Juba over the weekend through the UN air operation which began on Saturday.

Eights parties hold South-South Dialogue conference in November

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 18/10/09 — Eight Southern Sudanese political parties agreed to hold a South-South Dialogue conference in Khartoum next month to discuss the future of the semi-autonomous region.

The decision was made at a meeting in Khartoum on October 17 attended by representatives of the SANU, UDSF, United Democratic Party, SPLM-DC, Sudan National Labour Party, USAP-2,

South Sudan Democratic Forum, South Sudan Democratic Front.

The political parties said in a statement released Sunday that they agreed to hold a conference on November 7 to build southern consensus on the CPA implementation, particularly the general election and the 2011 referendum.

They also said a committee would be formed to prepare this political event stressing its membership is open to all the Southern political parties.

Ten top CES officials in ghost payroll scandal

According to a report presented to the GoSS Legislative Assembly by an ad-hoc committee following an exercise last Monday, the names of ten top administrators are in the ghost payroll list, reports **The Juba Post**. The findings show that public funds to the tune of 3,820 000 was misappropriated as Service Fund said to have been paid to the Assembly leadership for a period spanning only four months.

One dead as landmine explodes in Southern Kordofan

A landmine exploded killing a member of the regular forces in Southern Kordofan, reports **Al-Ahdath**. Informed sources say that a group of members of the regular forces was on a tractor yesterday on their way to Kadugli when the landmine exploded. The four other passengers were injured.

LRA reportedly clashes with citizens in South Darfur

London-based **The Independent** reports an LRA infiltration in Darfur, according to **Al-Khartoum**. The correspondent quotes SPLA official Kual Deim as saying that the LRA clashed with civilians in South Darfur as they sought supplies and ammunition. The paper goes on to say that this development threatens to derail the efforts exerted to resolve the Darfur crisis.

But Sudan's National Security Advisor Salah Ghoush has dismissed these reports as fabrications by the SPLA. He also said that the SPLA wanted to tarnish the image of the SAF by claiming that the SAF provides support for the LRA.

Authorities in South Darfur arrest SPLM officials

Authorities in Al-Diein Locality, South Darfur state, have arrested ten key figures in the local SPLM office after storming into the building and seizing some documents found inside, reports **Ajras Al-Hurriya**. SPLM-South Darfur Secretary, Sulaiman Ishaq, reports that the security officials came in 6 Land-Cruiser vehicles, stormed into their offices and arrested the ten officials. He said that they have reported the incident to the SPLM leadership in Khartoum and the local authorities.

Kenya denies killing of 16 troops by Sudanese tribesmen

Sudantribune.com Juba, 18/10/09 — Kenya has denied reports about 16 security force members killed by Sudanese tribesmen in the border area on Saturday.

Kuol Deim Kuol, SPLA spokesperson said today armed Toposa tribesmen, who live in the border area between the two countries, killed 16 Kenyan troops during an attack on their barracks in Nadapal on Thursday.

Reacting to the statement, Kenyan army denied the killing of its troops saying said all Kenyan troops along the border are safe and that at no time have they come under any attack.

"We wish to categorically state that we have not had even a single incident of shooting involving

our soldiers at that said common border. The information which is being dispatched by one of the international media houses is inaccurate, baseless and unfounded," said a statement signed by Army spokesperson Bogita Onger.

Red Cross picks up freed Darfur aid workers

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 18/10/09 – The International Red Cross picked up the two GOAL female aid workers after their release by the kidnappers and transported them to the capital of North Darfur.

After more than three months of negotiations with the abductors the kidnappers contacted the Red Cross asking it to transport the two workers to Al-Fasher. The international organization said it did not take part in negotiations over their release.

"On 17 October, the ICRC was informed by the kidnappers that the two hostages were to be released at a location near Kutum and was requested to pick up the two GOAL staff members there."

"An ICRC plane then flew both released hostages from Kutum to Al Fasher, where they arrived at 10.30am today."

Following their arrival to Kutum the two women were debriefed by the Sudanese intelligence officials.

The top United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan Ameerah Haq has welcomed the release of the two aid workers saying their kidnapping is "a reminder of the dangers faced by humanitarians working to help the people of Sudan, often in circumstances of considerable personal risk."

Sudanese state minister for humanitarian affairs Abdel-Baqi al-Jailani welcomed the release saying they didn't pay a ransom. Last month he had pledged to forgive the kidnapper who have done a crime and discuss the possibility of legal immunity for the kidnappers.

Also Darfur main rebel groups said they are pleased by the release of the two aid workers.

Speaking after their release the Irish aid worker said the kidnappers were motivated by money. "It was purely about money, that's all they wanted, and that's all they cared about. They would talk about nothing but money. They were extremely poor people trying to make a quick buck."

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