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Highlights

GoSS lashes out against UNSG statement on South Sudan's referendum

GoSS has strongly criticized the UN, saying it has exceeded international and diplomatic norms and violated the CPA, *Ajras Al-Hurriah* reports.

GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister, Luka Biong, in press statement to the newspaper has described the UNSG Ban Ki-moon's statement made on the eve of the AU summit in Addis Ababa with regard to South Sudan's referendum on self-determination as a "dangerous precedent". He pointed out that UN mandate in Sudan is to monitor the implementation of the CPA not to make unity an attractive option. "Making unity an attractive option is the duty of the two partners, not the UN," he said. Biong expressed astonishment over Ki-moon's statement; saying it amounts to transcending of international and diplomatic norms, violation of the CPA and flagrant interference in internal affairs of the Sudan.

"It is the people of southern Sudan, not any other party, who will decide their own options," he said. "Ki-moon's statement is incompatible with UN mandate," he added.

Reportedly, the UNSG had said that the "UN has the responsibility to make unity an attractive option in Sudan".

In a similar development, *Al-Qowat Al-Musalaha* daily, in its today's editorial criticizes the UNSG. A summary of the editorial reads: "In his address to AU summit in Addis Ababa yesterday, UNSG Ban Ki-moon said the organization would act decisively on impunity and called on African nations to support the ICC".

"Ki-moon made the remarks just hours from an ICC announcement to the effect that on 3 February it would decide whether Al-Bashir should be charged with genocide or not. Also, he made the statement despite the fact that the ongoing preparations for elections have made great strides. More importantly, Ki-moon's statement came after an unprecedented stability in Darfur. Instead of mobilizing the African countries against the Sudan and its president, the SG should focus on promoting stability in Darfur and to mobilize donors to raise fund for development in the region as well as ongoing efforts to achieve peace".

"Ki-moon's focus on justice before peace is an unjust and desperate attempt to gear Sudan back to sedition, conflict and war".

"Since Sudan has made great achievements in the form of a CPA that ended the war in the South and is making serious efforts to address Darfur issue and is also set to hold elections to ensure peaceful democratic transformation, Ki-moon should be fair and support the will of nations rather than adding oil to the fire".

Meanwhile, *Sudan Tribune website* 1/2/10 reported that a group of Southern Sudanese marched to UNMIS compound on Monday protesting an anti-secessionist statement attributed to the UN Secretary General. The remark also generated criticism among South Sudanese academics in Khartoum.

The protesters hold banners saying "our future lies in our independence." In a written speech delivered at UNMIS compound, the angered group claims that Ban Ki-moon's remarks at the

14th African Union (AU) summit on Saturday in Addis Ababa never “examined the negative part of [Sudan’s] unity.”

Bor protesters say Ban’s statement indicates that the UN admires Sudan’s wars, slavery and illiteracy under Khartoum administration. “Sudan has never been in peace not because the people Sudanese communities are against peace but...the government had been misruling...rich cultures,” the protest speech reads in part.

The demonstrators, mainly youth, call on the UN chief to apologize saying “Ban Ki-moon, repent before judgment.”

An officer at the UN camp, flanked by his colleagues at the UNMIS says at the time the letter was issued that the peacekeepers’ mandate does not include deciding on the future of Southern Sudan. The officer apologized for the local understanding of the UN chief’s statement and pledged to hand the letter to higher authorities.

Presidency to discuss census, border demarcation

The Presidency will hold a decisive meeting shortly to discuss the north-south border demarcation, dispute over census result and the SPLM boycott of elections in southern Kordofan, *Al-Ahdath* reports. FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit has reportedly instructed the Southern Kordofan governor and his deputy to continue consultations on the crisis in the state and submit their conclusions to the Presidency for consideration.

Invited by President Mubarak, Kiir to visit Cairo

Al-Ahdath has learned from reliable sources that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit will visit Cairo during the few coming days in response to an invitation from President Mubarak for consultation on south Sudan’s referendum and Egypt’s investments in the region.

VP Taha to visit Cairo

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that VP Ali Osman Taha will travel to Cairo on Sunday on 3-day official visit in response to an invitation from Egypt’s Prime Minister for consultations on bilateral, regional and international relations as well as the situation in the Sudan.

Heavy weight opposition leaders fly to Juba to meet Kiir

Invited by FVP Kiir, opposition heavy weight delegation headed by Imam Sadiq Al-Mahdi (UP) and comprised of Hassan Al-Turabi (PCP), Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud (Communist Party) and others are expected to travel to Juba tomorrow to hold talks with SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit on a range of issues including the current political situation and the arrangements for the upcoming elections, *The Citizen* reports.

South Sudan reviews its Strategic Plans for 2010-11

Sudan Tribune website 1/2/10 – With only ten months left in the count down towards the conduct of referendum in January 2011, the semi-autonomous regional government of Southern Sudan has resolved to review its Strategic Plan for 2010/2011.

While its Growth Strategy document completed, this is to review the Government of Southern Sudan’s (GoSS) priorities for the last five years, develop an action plan that outlines areas of emphasis and expected impacts.

The outcome of the review process would serve as an instrument for monitoring progress in

guiding government's priorities as well as those of its development partners.

In the Friday's meeting in which the issue was resolved by the cabinet chaired by the Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny, it was also resolved that ministers and senior civil servants will be exposed to a two-day workshop by mid February on the review process.

This will also include discussions on estimating investment requirements for 2011 and potential sources of funding. Constraints to implementation will also be discussed, among others.

The Acting official spokesperson of the government, Madut Biar, said a number of experts in economic recovery strategy will also be invited from some of the neighboring countries to share their experiences with the government ministers and senior civil servants.

GoSS had an overall Strategic Plan document drawn out from various ministries' Action Plans, but the cabinet meeting noted that there has not been a consolidated or harmonized priority plan of action and stressed the urgent need to develop one.

Jonglei State voluntary disarmament collects 4,441 guns

Citizens have surrendered some 4,441 guns in a voluntary disarmament drive in several countries in Jonglei state on Monday, *Khartoum Monitor* reports.

Speaking to *Miraya FM*, Deputy Governor of Jonglei State, Nyadak Paul, said he was encouraged by the peaceful surrender of firearms and expressed hopes that other counties in Jonglei State will follow suit. Paul who is also the state's Minister for Social Welfare urged youths in the community to return to school and to take an interest in sport. She added that the state is working at providing alternatives for people who chose to give up their firearms. These alternatives include sport activities, adult education programs, computer training workshops and youth centers.

Prosecutor summons chief editors over electronic waste

The Office of the Prosecutor for Crimes against the State has summoned editor-in-chiefs of seven local newspapers for running stories for last two months on cancerous electronic waste in Sudan, *Al-Ayyam* reports. The chief editors were interrogated and then released on bail. Reportedly, radio-active electronic waste has found its way into the country.

Joint Sudan, Chad forces deployed along common border

Ismat Abdulrahman, a member of Sudan Government delegation to the Doha talks, has revealed that the joint Sudan-Chad military committee has agreed to set up six border outposts, *Al-Ayyam* reports. He revealed that armies of the two sides have deployed contingents of up to 120 personnel each. He also said that these forces have been provided with aircraft and vehicles to facilitate their border monitoring including arms and drugs trafficking.

Authorities to regulate presence of foreigners in residential areas

The Ministry of Labour, Civil Service and Human Resources is mulling a set of tight regulations to be passed to various states to regulate the stay of foreigners in residential areas of towns and cities, *Al-Watan* reports. Undersecretary for Labour, Adam Hamad Mohamed told *SMC* that the Ministry decided to take such measures in order to control stay of foreigners and to avert the negative effects that may arise as a result of varying concepts and behaviours given the spontaneity of the Sudanese people when they lease their houses to foreigners without checking on their identities and residency status.

Sudan FM admitted to hospital, poisoning suspected - report

Sudan Tribune website 1/2/10 – The Sudanese FM Deng Alor has been admitted to a private hospital in the Ethiopian capital and is suspected to have been poisoned, a Sudanese newspaper reported on Monday.

The pro-government **Al-Intibaha** newspaper said that the incident took place as Alor was taking part in the African Union (AU) summit held in Addis Ababa.

The news was kept under tight wraps but a source close to the Sudanese official refused to reveal the circumstances surrounding the poisoning or whether foul play is suspected.

Political assassinations in Sudan are rare and uncommon throughout its political history.

In 2007, a number of Sudanese officials were hospitalized after drinking camel milk in a desert retreat including senior presidential assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, former presidential press secretary Mahjoub Fadl Badri and Qutbi Al-Mahdi a senior official in the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir drank from the same milk but did not suffer the same poisoning symptoms.

Sudan accuses Darfur peacekeepers of supplying JEM rebels

Sudan Tribune website 1/2/10 — The hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) supplied the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) with food and fuel, the Sudanese army said today.

In an unprecedented accusation SAF on Monday said UNAMID supplied JEM rebels with six Hino ZY trucks loaded with food.

A staff of the Sudanese Tajoj Company, which had leased the trucks from an English-German company and contracted with UNAMID, said they had been informed by El Fasher police about the hijacking of those trucks by the JEM, said SAF spokesperson in a statement to the official SUNA.

However, the spokesperson pointed out that UNAMID did not report the missing trucks to the authorities and even denied they are unaccounted for, a matter that was considered as clear collaboration between UNAMID and JEM, he stressed.

In addition, the SAF spokesperson said another incident occurred on January 25 where two trucks loaded with 70 barrels of fuel went missing and UNAMID did not inform the concerned authorities about the incident.

Following his arrival during the last week of January, the new head of UNAMID Ibrahim Gambari pledged to cooperate with the Sudanese authorities in order to establish peace and security in Darfur.

No negotiation on Darfur self-determination – negotiator

Head of Sudan Government's delegation for Doha talks on Darfur Amin Hassan Omer has reiterated Khartoum's categorical rejection to negotiate self-determination for Darfur, **Al-Ahdath** reports. Omer pointed out that the delay of talks is caused by the lack of unity among Darfur Movements.

Food gap in north Darfur reported

The South Darfur state Government has announced a food gap estimated at 180,000 metric tons of food grains caused by lack of rainfall, ***Al-Ahdath*** reports. He called on the federal government, national institutions and humanitarian organizations to urgently intervene to redress the gap.

Elections Special:

Al-Bashir candidacy challenged

Local dailies report that Dr. Mutasim Abdullah Mahmoud, an academician, has lodged an appeal to the NEC against candidacy of Omer Al-Bashir. According to ***Al-Ayyam***, Mahmoud claimed that Al-Bashir would not be able to perform his duties as a president because of been indicted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He also claimed that Al-Bashir is to blame for torture meted out to civilians in ghost houses, calling on the NEC to withdraw his candidature.

SPLM Political Bureau discusses Kiir-Taha meeting about elections

Sudan Tribune website 1/2/10 – The highest political body of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) began its meeting in Juba on Monday to discuss the recent meeting between the party's chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, deputy chairman of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

Taha came to Juba on Sunday and held a closed door meeting with Kiir and discussed issues mainly to do with the upcoming April general elections in the country.

Among the expected issues the Bureau shall discuss would include the request by the NCP, urging the SPLM to withdraw its candidate for the position of the President of Republic and endorse the incumbent President and NCP chairman Omer Al-Bashir.

The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum also told the press that the Political Bureau meeting would tackle the fate of party's members who have declared themselves as independent candidates against the Bureau's nominated colleagues for such positions or seats.

So far seven states out of the ten states in the South have independent candidates who are members of the SPLM and have declared to contest for the position of governor in their respective states.

These states that have declared independent candidates for the position of governor include Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

Warrap state was reported to have a declared independent candidate, the incumbent deputy governor, but was also said to have been convinced to reverse the decision.

Other two states that have not declared independent candidacy include Western Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes state.

It is also widely believed that hundreds of SPLM independent candidates have declared their intention to run for the parliamentary seats at the national, Southern Sudan and states levels.

Pagan Amum said it was a violation of the party's rules by those who declared themselves as independent candidates.

Independent candidates argued that the party's Political Bureau's nomination of candidates was "unpopular" because it was mostly done against the choices of the people in the constituencies concerned.