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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Extension of UNMIS mandate depends on parties' agreement

Al-Sudani 2/5/11 – The Security Council said extension of mandate of UNMIS' peacekeepers depends on agreement of the parties to the CPA, the NCP and the SPLM.

While the SPLM expressed its consent to an extension for the Mission, spokesperson of Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khaled Musa said the issue is being considered and the government would make its decision public during the coming period. Musa, who was speaking to reporters yesterday, said UNMIS' activity would continue until the end of the interim period, adding there is no need to talk about an extension before the period set by the Security Council ends. He said the need for extension would be considered only after the end of the interim period and subject to the agreement of the Government of the Sudan.

Al-Khartoum 2/5/11 reports Musa as saying that the Security Council left the issue of extension for UNMIS to the Government of the Sudan so if the government sees any need for extension it will consult with its partner.

Security Council delegation to visit Sudan late in May

SUNA 1/5/11 - A delegation of the UN Security Council is due to begin a several-day official visit to Sudan in the last week of the current May.

In a press statement Sunday, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Khalid Musa, welcomed the visit of the UN Security Council delegation that comes as part of an African tour of the delegation to Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

He pointed out that the visit is a routine one during which the delegation will meet senior government officials to be informed on progress of the peace process in Sudan and inspect UNMIS and UNAMID.

Musa said that the Ministry looks forward for the visit to be conducive to establishing constructive relations between Sudan and the Security Council, stressing that the government would provide the members of the delegation with the required information.

Misseriya and Dinka clash in Abyei

Al-Ayyam 2/5/11 – clashes erupted yesterday between the Misseriya and the SPLA in the area of "Al-Nagar" north of Abyei.

Misseriya leader Tibeik Shiqeifa said the fighting broke out yesterday between the Peoples Defence Forces (PDF) following an attack launched on a JIU patrol in the area.

George Athor denies formation of coalition government

Sudan Tribune website 1/5/11 - Renegade General George Athor Deng Dut on Sunday broke his silence and denied the formation of the coalition government which was widely reported in Khartoum media last week.

On 27 April, The pro-Sudanese intelligence service SMC posted on its website a story claiming that six rebel factions formed a coalition council in which a renegade General George Athor was selected as president. It further claimed Abdel Bagi Ayii was vice president, Peter Gadet Yak secretary of defense and Gatuak Gai general chief of staff and deputy secretary for operations.

Bol Gatkuoth Kol was also alleged to have been named secretary general of foreign affairs and official spokesman of the movement.

Abiel Riing Mijak, a senior member of the rebel South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), on 29 April told Sudan Tribune that six rebel factions formed a coalition council of rebel movements and named renegade General George Athor as president of the new body. He claimed that the body would serve as an entity for strategic planning and the organisation of the unified operations.

"Yes, it is true. The council has been formed. It was formed on Wednesday ", said Mijak.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune from undisclosed location in South Sudan on satellite phone, renegade General George Athor said, the media reports were not correct but admitted that a meeting was called and held on Wednesday by Sultan Abdel Bagi Ayii Akol over unified operations and command.

"The media reports that there was a coalition government of which I am said to have been elected as its president and Sultan Abdel Bagi Ayii Akol as vice president are not correct. This did not happen," said Athor, admitting that a meeting was called and held by Sultan Abdel Ayii Akol with other rebel groups on Wednesday to discuss how to coordinate operations and other strategic planning under one command.

"Yes, I am aware a meeting was called to discuss how to form a unified command. The members of course discussed about forming a coalition but which should be after organisation. A final consensus was reached on Wednesday in a meeting called by Sultan Abdel Bagi Ayii. I was informed but I told them to put it on hold because we are still in the process of organising ourselves.

"The discussions on time to establish the interim leadership have not been concluded. All members of the movement are still discussing processes of organisation to hold convention in which leadership of the movement shall be elected in a free and fair voting," explained Athor.

He further explained that his movement, the South Sudan Democratic Movement is a democratic movement founded on democratic principles and values in which any leader in the movement who wants to hold any position must achieve it by election.

19 southern parties to boycott debate on constitution over Abyei

Al-Wifaq 2/5/11 – 19 southern political parties have threatened to boycott discussion on the constitution if reference to Abyei is not deleted from the bill.

The political parties have criticized the inclusion of a provision in the constitution laying claim to Abyei, arguing that Abyei is a disputed territory and a contentious issue which should be resolved by the Presidency.

SPLM rebuffs demand power sharing in the South

Al-Ahdath 2/5/11 – The SPLM has rejected calls by southern political parties for 50-50 share of power in southern Sudan, saying a broad-based government would be formed in which all southern political parties would participate under Kiir’s leadership.

GoSS Minister of Legal Affairs John Luke has rejected the power-sharing demand, indicating that the SPLM would stick to its position to form a broad-based government.

Landmine exploded in Machar’s ranch

Al-Intibaha 2/5/11 – a landmine explosion in GoSS VP Riek Machar’s farm on Saturday killed a driver. Explosive experts from UNMIS rushed to the scene of the explosion to search for more landmines.

Meanwhile, an SPLA investigation committee formally accused Maj. Gen. Gabriel Tang of allying with the NCP to kill the Dinka, attack Malakal and destabilize the region.

In another development, UNMIS officially apologized to the forces of Lt. Gen. Peter Gadet for a previous movement in areas under the latter’s control. Gadet’s spokesperson Bol Gatkouth has received official letter to the effect that prior permission would be obtained for movement in areas controlled by Gadet forces.

GoSS admits insecurity and mushrooming corruption

Akhir Lahza 2/5/11 – The GoSS admitted, for the first time, widespread insecurity, tribalism and mushrooming corruption in the region. According to *SMC*, a meeting of the committee tasked with security in the South discussed a range of issues including elections in southern Kordofan. The meeting criticized some leaders for their role in insecurity in the South. According to the source, the meeting decided to seek the help of international organizations to end tensions and address insecurity particularly in the Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal state.

SPLM Political Bureau endorses constitution

Al-Sahafa 2/5/11 – SPLM Political Bureau has endorsed the South Sudan constitution without introducing any amendments. SPLM leading figure Luka Biong said the recognition of the new state by the North is not binding although it is “extremely important”.

Meanwhile, sources said the two CPA parties are to resume their talks today in Addis Ababa on the issue of oil. Biong said the SPLM has prepared itself for the talks on oil as part of negotiations on post-referendum arrangement. He revealed that the NCP has informally apologized, adding “from our side we will proceed with the talks until we receive official apology”.

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

Elections in southern Kordofan to kick off today

Local dailies 2.5/11 – Over 600,000 voters will go to polls today to cast their votes in southern Kordofan state. Voting will kick off at 666 polling centres across the region. 14 political parties, 9 independent candidates and three gubernatorial candidates are preparing to compete in the

area. Sources indicated heavy deployment of police and JIUs which were also put on maximum alert. *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 2/5/11 reports SPLM spokesperson in the area Mohamedain Ibrahim as saying that there is undeclared state of emergency in some constituencies adding there is massive military buildup but also complained of malpractice by the NCP which might threaten the democratic process.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 2/5/11, the UN disclosed that it has received pledges from the NCP and the SPLM to maintain peace and security during the polling process and to form an inclusive government in the state whatever the outcome.

SRSR Haile Menkerios said security preparations had been completed and organized troops tasked for the start of elections. Menkerios said after a meeting yesterday with Governor of Southern Kordofan state Ahmed Haroun and his deputy Abdulaziz Al-Hilu that the organized forces and police would not intervene in the elections process unless it is absolutely necessary and called for an independent investigation in recent incidents in the area.

Seven killed in Misseriya clashes

Al-Sahafa 2/5/11 – Clashes erupted yesterday between two Misseriya group in Bileila area, 140 km east of Mujlad in southern Kordofan. The fighting, which broke out on Saturday due to dispute over pastures and continued until yesterday, left seven people killed on both sides but other sources said fatality increased to 20 besides tens of wounded people. According to the sources, the situation might explode given the limited presence of police in the area.

According to *Al-Ahdath* 2/5/11, 15 people were killed and 10 wounded in a tribal fighting in Bileila area in southern Kordofan. The fighting was sparked by a tribal dispute over a land. Southern Kordofan government Ahmed Haroun rushed to the scene of the problem and the dispute was resolved. Misseriya leader Hamid Al-Ansari said tribal leaders were able to calm the situation adding that the incident has nothing to do with elections in the area.

Court accepts appeal against detention of Telefone Kuku

Local dailies 2/5/11 – the Constitutional Court has accepted a suit filed by Advocate Mohamed Hassan Nasir against continued detention by the SPLA of Maj. Gen. Telefone Kuku, an independent candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post. The Advocate argued that the SPLA is not an organized army and has no competent courts to detain or penalize any body.

Meanwhile, supporters of Kuku have dismissed charges that they are plotting to assassinate GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit. Al-Nasir has accused an unnamed group of floating the rumour of plot to assassinate Kiir.

Other Highlights

JEM reject proposed peace deal saying it is far from Darfur's aspirations

Sudan Tribune website 1/5/11 - The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rejected a draft peace agreement to end the eight year conflict in Darfur saying it remains far from the legitimate aspirations of Darfurians.

The mediation in Doha handed the draft on 27 April to the three Sudanese parties taking part in

the peace process urging them to respond before the 7 May. JEM endorsed already three of the six chapters but requested direct talks with the government on the remaining issues.

JEM rebels warned they are not concerned by the accords proposed by the mediation stressing they are negotiated by the government and Liberation and Equality Movement (LJM). The talks, they said, should be based on the discussion-papers prepared by the two parties.

Delegations from the two sides met on Saturday and Sunday — with the presence of the US Senior Adviser for Darfur Dane Smith — to discuss a number of topics according to an agenda scheduled by the mediation. Prioritizing the easy issues, the mediators preferred to start with the Human Rights Fundamental Freedoms chapter...

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